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goal!!

W e e k l y

Vol. 6 No. 30 Monday 13th September 2010

Still
\$4

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OOROO TO THE HOODOO!

VICTORY AT AAMI PUTS SPELL TO BED

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SCOREBOARD

TABLE

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Adelaide United	6	4	2	0	12	7	5	14
2	Perth Glory	6	3	2	1	10	7	3	11
3	CC Mariners	6	3	2	1	6	4	2	11
4	Melbourne Victory	6	2	2	2	9	9	0	8
5	Brisbane Roar FC	5	2	2	1	2	3	-1	8
6	Wellington Phoenix	5	2	1	2	8	7	1	7
7	Gold Coast United	4	1	2	1	4	4	0	5
8	Nth Queensland Fury	5	1	2	2	9	10	-1	5
9	Melbourne Heart	6	1	2	3	6	8	-2	5
10	Newcastle Jets	5	0	3	2	2	4	-2	3
11	Sydney FC	6	0	2	4	7	12	-5	2

WEEKEND RESULTS

Central Coast Mariners

(Daniel McBreen 20')

Melbourne Heart

1

0

Melbourne Victory 3

(Tom Pondeljak 51', Ricardinho 56', Grant Brebner 71')

Brisbane Roar

0

0

Wellington Phoenix

(Paul Ifill 50', Nick Ward 72')

Sydney FC

2

1

Adelaide United

(Mathew Leckie 23, Marcos Flores 66')

Newcastle Jets

0

1

Bye - North Qld Fury

TOP GOAL SCORERS

3 - Paul IFILL, Mathew LECKIE, Mile STERJOVSKI

2 - Jason CULINA, Marcos FLORES, Robbie FOWLER, Chris GREENACRE, Chris GROSSMAN, Branko JELIC, Nick KALMAR, Daniel MCBREEN, Kevin MUSCAT, Chris PAYNE, Shane SMELTZ, Iain RAMSAY, Sergio VAN DIJK, David WILIAMS

1 - Eli BABALJ, Kosta BARBAROUSES, Leo BERTOS, Grant BREBNER, Jeremy BROCKIE, Alex BROSQUE, Leigh BROXHAM, Bruno CAZARINE, Billy CELESKI, Isaka CERNAK, Shannon COLE, Dyron DAAL, Mate DUGANDZIC, Iain

NEXT WEEK

Wed, 15 Sep 2010

Melbourne Victory vs. Wellington Phoenix

7:30pm

AAMI Park

Friday 17 September 2010

Newcastle Jets FC v Perth Glory FC

8.00 PM

EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle

Saturday 18 September 2010

North Queensland Fury v Melbourne Victory FC

5.15 PM

Dairy Farmers Stadium

Brisbane Roar FC v Adelaide United FC

7.30 PM

Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane

Sunday 19 September 2010

Melbourne Heart FC v Wellington Phoenix FC

3.00 PM

AAMI Park, Melbourne

Gold Coast United Central Coast Mariners FC

5.00 PM

Skilled Park, Gold Coast

Local KO times apply

Round 06

JOHN CLARK'S KISS OF DEATH





V




The Glory's unbeaten start to the season came to an abrupt halt on Sunday afternoon, thanks to an inspired performance by a Jason Culina led Gold Coast outfit. The Glory struggled to break down resolute defending from the away side and when they did Glen Moss was on hand to make sure the Gold Coast left Perth with all 3 points. Newcastle's dire start to the campaign continued on Saturday night with a 2-1 loss to Adelaide. The Jets are still without a win this season, and even though Branko Culina denies their off field issues are affecting the players it's hard to believe that's true. Strangely these sides met only 3 weeks ago at ME Bank Stadium. On that occasion the Glory took an early lead through Branko Jelic and were able to hold onto that advantage, despite Marko Jesic smashing a superbly taken free kick into the cross bar. The Perth Glory have won their previous four encounters with the Jets and showed earlier this season against the Victory that the travel factor should be an issue for them so I expect them to come away with a comfortable win.

Prediction
Newcastle 0-2 Perth



V



The Melbourne Victory will play their third game in six days when they travel to Townsville to take on the North Queensland Fury on Saturday night. To the contrary, the Fury will be fresh after having the bye last week. The Victory took on the Brisbane Roar last week, and after suffering through a frustrating first half in which the Roar sat back they were able to explode into life in the second half with three goals. In a great sign for the Victory, Ricardinho was able to get off the mark in his first start for the club. Despite a few indifferent results before the bye, the Fury's form was still strong and if it wasn't for their strikers spurning multiple opportunities they would have taken something, if not all three points, from their round 5 clash with the Heart. The last time these two met they produce a scintillating 2-2 draw in one of the matches of the season to date. I expect the Fury's form to plateau somewhat in the coming weeks, but if they can spread the Victory defence in the absence of Kevin Muscat I think they can take something off the weary Victory players.

Prediction
NQF 1-1 MV



V



Adelaide United will go to Brisbane on Saturday night chock full of confidence after their fourth straight victory left them unbeaten and a win clear at the top of the A-League table. The Reds are playing irresistible football and have already half as many goals as they did for the whole of last season after only 6 matches. The Roar's bubble burst on Sunday afternoon as Melbourne Victory ran riot in the second half to take a deserved 3-0 victory. Brisbane looked like a team that had come to Melbourne to play for a 0-0 draw, but once Tom Pondeljak had given the home side the lead the Roar lost their shape and were made to pay for a couple of bad defensive lapses. Of more immediate concern for the Roar though is their lack of goals so far this campaign. 2 goals in 5 matches certainly doesn't cut it and the Roar desperately need to start having a look for an out and out striker. I think that the Reds brilliant front three of Leckie, Van Dijk and Flores will be too much for the Roar to cope with on Saturday night and look for Van Dijk to show Brisbane just what their missing by adding to his goal tally this season.

Prediction
Brisbane 1-3 Adelaide



V



The Heart take on Wellington on Sunday to end what has been an eventful week for the club. After falling behind to an early Daniel McBreen header on Friday night, the Heart were reduced to ten men when defender Michael Beauchamp was given a straight red card for a head butt. This certainly wasn't the biggest Heart related story in Melbourne over the weekend though, with reports suggesting that Ronaldo may be on his way down under as a guest player with the Heart. The Phoenix were able to extend their unbeaten streak at home thanks to a wonder goal from new boy Nicky Ward. While the Phoenix are a formidable force at home, their away form has always been a major concern and John Van't Schip will be eager to expose their busy schedule (this will be the Phoenix's 3rd game in a week). In saying that Wellington are a side that know each other very well and this is something the Heart has struggled with in the first few weeks. I expect a tight tussle with not too many clear cut chances.

Prediction
MH 1-1 WP



V



Gold Coast takes on the Central Coast Mariners on Sunday night to finish off the round. Gold Coast was fantastic on Sunday against Perth and walked away from one of the toughest away trips in the A-League with all three points. Jason Culina was in fantastic form, while Bruce Djite showed that he will be a more than handy acquisition for Miron Bleiberg and his team. The Mariners defeated the Heart for the second time for the season on Friday night thanks to Daniel McBreen's second headed goal in as many weeks. While Graham Arnold must be ecstatic with his teams start to the season he challenged them to be more ruthless in front of goal in the coming weeks. In there only meeting at Skilled Park last year it was the Gold Coast coming from behind to win 2-1 in an entertaining contest. I expect this match will be similarly entertaining, I just hope there is a crowd there to watch it.

My Prediction
GCU 3-2 CC

2

Monday 13th September 2010

ADELAIDE UNITED



NEWCASTLE JETS



Adelaide United 2 (Mathew Leckie 23, Marcos Flores 66')
Newcastle Jets 1 (Sean Rooney 90')
Saturday, 11 September 2010
Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide
Referee: Ben Williams
Assistant Referees: Paul Cetrangolo & Daniel Goodwin
Fourth Official: Regis Queffelec
Crowd: 9,571

Adelaide United line-up:
1.Eugene GALEKOVIC (gk), 4.Iain FYFE, 5.Daniel MULLEN, 6.CASSIO, 7.Lucas PANTELIS (c) (26.Joe KEENAN 84'), 8.Adam HUGHES, 9.Sergio VAN DIJK, 10.Marcos FLORES (17.Iain RAMSAY 78'), 12.Paul REID, 19.Mathew LECKIE, 24.Cameron WATSON (2.Robert CORNTHWAITE 63')

Substitutes not used: 20.Mark BIRIGHITTI (gk)

Yellow Cards: Nil

Red Cards: Nil

Newcastle Jets line-up: 1.Ben KENNEDY (gk), 3.Adam D'APUZZO, 4.Nikolai TOPOR-STANLEY, 5.Ljubo MILICEVIC, 6.Ben KAN-TAROVSKI, 7.Kasey WEHRMAN (21.Brodie MOOY 77'), 8.Michael BRIDGES (c) (19.Ali ABBAS 67'), 9.Zhang SHUO (15.Sean ROONEY 58'), 11.Tarek ELRICH, 16.Jeremy BROCKIE, 18.Marko JESIC



Publisher:
Alimental Enterprises Pty Ltd
PO Box 142 Port Melbourne VIC 3207
Ph: 03 9551 7538
Fax: 03 9551 7538

Printer:
The Age Print Centre
31 - 69 Western Avenue
Tullamarine Vic 3043

Distribution:
Fairfax Media Publication Solutions

Fairfax Media Publication Solutions
Tel: 13 23 01

News Room: 03 9551 7538
Advertising: 03 9551 7538
Email: news@goalweekly.com

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Web: www.goalweekly.com

Reds pull clear at the top of HAL

By Dom Rinaldo

Adelaide United FC has stretched its winning run to four games, after the Reds defeated a dogged Newcastle Jets outfit 2-1 at Hindmarsh Stadium.

While the Reds fell a goal short of the rare feat of scoring three goals in four consecutive matches, usual suspects Mathew Leckie and Marcos Flores both found the back of the net in another inspiring and highly entertaining United display, to ensure the Reds keep their position at the top of the Hyundai A-League table.

Leckie capitalised on a superb Cassio cross to open the scoring in the 23rd minute, before Flores followed up with another goal of high quality in the 66th minute to seal the three points.

While Head Coach Rini Coolen was satisfied the Reds were able to secure another three points, he was more pleased with the fact that his team managed to win despite not being at his sharpest.

"I don't think we played our best game today. We started well, scored a good goal and controlled the game," Coolen said.

"We lost a little bit of control in the game (in the second half) and then it was a terrific goal from Flores, that was a real good moment for us and after that we controlled the game again."

"We were the better team today. It wasn't our best but if you play bad or not as good as last week and still win your points in your home games, then it gives us a good feeling for the moment, but we can do better."

The Reds were hosting Newcastle for the second time in their opening three home games, but this time around it was under contrasting circumstances, United aiming to extend a three game winning streak, while the Jets were fronting up after a week of off field uncertainty and still searching out to find their first win.

With the home side's movement and cohesion a feature as the Reds dominated in midfield, it was seemingly just a matter of time before the Reds made it count, and in the 22nd minute Leckie obliged with his third goal in four games.

Brilliant work from Cassio on the left side on the penalty area, saw the Brazilian deliver a pinpoint cross to find Leckie completely unmarked, the youngster making no mistake



Adelaide United have exceeded all expectations and are sitting pretty at the top of the A-League.
PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

with his header, as he beat Jets keeper Ben Kennedy at the near post to give Adelaide the lead.

The Jets needed a response and on the half hour they nearly had it, when Jeremy Brockie had Eugene Galekovic beaten with a curling shot from just inside the area, but the post came to United's rescue, then Reds keeper producing a sharp save from Adam D'Apuzzo's effort from the rebound to keep the ball out.

Moments later Galekovic was perfectly positioned again to prevent Zhang Shuo from equalising, Kennedy doing the same at the other end to keep out a stinging Flores effort.

Their lead may have only been one goal, but there were a number of positives signs for the Reds, Cameron Watson holding his own at right back, while Adam Hughes looks a new player this season after an in-

different debut campaign, the midfielder dangerous in attack and winning the tough fifty-fifty contests in the defensive half.

Despite the openness of the first half contest, there was no addition to the score with the Reds holding their one goal advantage at the break.

There were few chances at either end in the opening stages of the second half, the Reds required to increase their defensive pressure, with the Jets lifting a gear as they tried to get back into the game.

But then in the 66th minute Flores sent United further ahead with a sublime piece of individual skill and contender for goal of the year. Taking possession and running at a retreating and worried Jets defence, the Argentinean faked twice to his left before maneuvering his way into the penalty area and losing

three defenders in the process, before smashing a left footed shot into the top corner of the net giving the home crowd their moneys worth.

With three points seemingly safe in their keeping, Coolen had the luxury of giving Flores an early rest with 12 minutes to go, the home side content to run down the clock.

Then with injury time looming, a nonchalant back pass from Cassio for Galekovic came undone, gifting Sean Rooney the ball, who managed to score a late consolation goal for the visitors.

But despite the mishap, it was just a minor glitch, as the Reds march onto their next assignment against Brisbane Roar next Saturday night at Suncorp Stadium, a venue United is yet to taste defeat.

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CC MARINERS

1

MELBOURNE HEART

0

Central Coast Mariners 1
(Daniel McBreen 20')
Melbourne Heart 0
Bluetongue Stadium, Gosford
Friday, 10 September 2010
Referee: Peter Green
Assistant Referees: Rod Allen & Ryan Gallagher
Fourth Official: Stuart Wolfe
Crowd: 6,326

Central Coast Mariners line-up:
20.Mathew RYAN (gk), 2 Daniel MCBREEN (9.Nik MRDJA 84'), 3.Joshua ROSE, 4.Pedj BOJIC, 6.Patrick ZWAANSWIJK, 7.John HUTCHINSON, 8.Rostyn GRIFFITHS, 11.Oliver BOZANIC, 14.Michael MCGLINCHEY, 18.Alex WILKINSON (c), 19.Matt SIMON (23.Adam KWASNIK 69').

Substitutes not used: 30.Paul HENDERSON (gk), 5.Brad PORTER.

Yellow Cards: John Hutchinson 75', Adam Kwasnik 78'

Red Cards: Nil

Melbourne Heart line-up: 1.Clint BOLTON (gk), 2.Michael MARRONE, 3.Brendan HAMILL (19.Eli BABALI 46'), 4.Simon COLOSIMO (c), 5.Michael BEAUCHAMP, 6.Matt THOMPSON, 9.Gerald SIBON (15. John ALOISI 69') 10.Wayne SRHOJ, 22.Nick KALMAR (17.Jason HOFFMAN 59'), 23.Dean HEFFERNAN, 24.Aziz BEHICH.

Substitutes not used: 12.Peter ZOIS (gk).

Yellow Cards: Dean Heffernan 22'

Red Cards: Michael Beauchamp 52'

‘Fortress Mariners’ a work in progress

By Adrian Deans

What does a football ground have in common with a Bronze Age fence of sharpened stakes, or a medieval castle spewing boiling oil from its ramparts, or Osama Bin Laden’s booby-trapped cave?

If it’s defended by a crap football team, then the answer is: nothing.

All the talk before this game was about the Mariners’ desire to turn Bluetongue into a fortress, but fortresses have been few and far between in the A-League. Possibly because of the salary cap, there have not been too many dominant teams playing out of impenetrable citadels. For all the desire of coaches, players and fans to turn their stadia into fortresses, the A-League reality has been that visiting teams have been confronted less with moats and battlements, and more with charity and red carpets.

What does this do for crowds? Home fans love to feel as though they themselves are helping to defend the fortress – that their massed numbers and baying for goals will somehow daunt the unbelievers and help their champions to put them to the sword. But if the champions are unable to satisfy the goal-lust of the home fans, then the fans will slowly drift away.

There were lots of reasons not to come out to Bluetongue this week, on a freezing Friday night at the beginning of the NRL finals series. Rain (as usual) was predicted and no Perez again. But enough did turn out, and the only reason can be the quality of the football the Mariners have been playing.

Equal third on the table and having just beaten last year’s grand finalists, the Mariners have been getting results without looking terribly convincing – at least in the final third. But in defence, Mariners fans have been raving about the performances of Patrick Zwaanswijk, Rostyn Griffiths and Josh Rose.

John of Bensville has been very impressed with Zwaanswijk’s ability to consistently nip in and take the ball off an attacker’s toe, and his second defender work has been brilliant. “He’s the main reason we’re not conceding.”

At the other end of the park, the Mariners were much quicker out of the blocks than they were against Victory. Ollie Bozanic, another good performer this year, whipped over a superb cross in the 5th minute, which should have found someone, but both McBreen and Simon were sitting too deep to profit.

Then, in the 15th minute another cross from Bozanic was brilliantly met on the volley from an airborne McBreen, but Bolton was able to react in time.

But Heart didn’t heed the warnings. On the 20 minute mark, McGlinchey found Simon in the inside right channel. The ball was forced wide but then a pass back inside found McGlinchey who’d been allowed to run unmarked into the box. His chip to the far post was then forced home by McBreen who timed his run perfectly to sneak past Wayne Shroj (who looked as though he didn’t realise McBreen was lurking).

After that it was fairly even to half time with neither team threatening much. Griffiths played a couple of ex-



Action from the Mariners’ win over Heart. PHOTO:KAREN DOUGLAS

cellent long diagonal balls to switch play and generally took command of the centre of the park. How the Heart must be missing Josip Skoko.

Speaking of missing creative midfielders, Patricio Perez will make a major difference when he finally gets on the park. In the final third, too many Mariners crosses and passes went to places where someone should have been, but wasn’t. In the 48th minute McBreen’s cut back across the penalty spot should have been met by someone flying in looking for exactly that ball...

Cue tumbleweeds and crickets.

Apart from the finishing, the Mariners by now were in complete control. The defence looked untroubled and the crowd would have been encouraged to see young Matt Ryan coming out sev-

eral times to defuse high balls.

Then the game changed. In the 52nd minute, Michael Beauchamp, returning to Bluetongue for the first time as an infidel, was sent off for what looked a fairly benign head movement on Bozanic. The referee saw it as a head butt but for some reason the result was a free kick outside the box. Hopefully, the Match Review Panel see the head butt for what it really was and let Beauchamp back on the park next week.

If anything, the Heart were the better side after being reduced to ten, as the Mariners seemed frozen by complacency and in the end were dying for the final whistle. Kwasnik and Mrdja were introduced to make a difference but the lack of finishing quality continued and the Mariners were forced

to rely for the win on their excellent defence.

The big question for Graham Arnold will be: who to miss out for Perez next week?

As for Fortress Bluetongue: it’s not yet a fortress, but the way the Mariners’ defence has gelled, it’s no longer a red carpet.

- 3 points – Rostyn Griffiths
- 2 points – Patrick Zwaanswijk
- 1 point – Josh Rose

Adrian Deans is the author of Mr Cleansheets – published by Vulgar Press, distributed by Dennis Jones and Associates and available in all good book stores.

MELBOURNE VICTORY



3

BRISBANE ROAR



0

Melbourne Victory 3 (Tom Pondeljak 51', Ricardinho 56', Grant Brebner 71')

Brisbane Roar 0

Sunday, 12 September 2010

AAMI Park, Melbourne

Referee: Ryan Shephard

Assistant Referees: Luke Brennan & Shaun Evans

Fourth Official: Alex Azcurra

Crowd: 13,792

Melbourne Victory line-up: 1.Michael PETKOVIC (gk), 2.Kevin MUSCAT (c), 3.Mate DUGANDZIC (14.Billy CELESKI 46'), 5.Surat SUKHA, 6.Leigh BROXHAM, 8.Grant BREBNER, 9.RICARDINHO (11. Marvin ANGULO 72'), 12.Rodrigo VARGAS, 16.Carlos HERNANDEZ, 23.Adrian LEIJER, 27.Geoff KELLAWAY (15.Tommy PONDELJAK 46')

Substitutes not used: 20.Sebastian MATTEI (gk)

Yellow cards: Leigh BROXHAM 74', Grant BREBNER 90'

Red cards: Nil

Brisbane Roar line-up: 1.Michael THEOKLITOS (gk), 2.Matt SMITH, 3.Luke DEVERE, 4.Shane STEFANUTTO, 6.Erik PAARTALU, 8.Massimo MURDOCCA (17.Mitch NICHOLS 59'), 10.HENRIQUE (7.Kosta BARBAROUSES 6' (9.Jean Carlos SOLORZANO 59')), 11.REINALDO, 15.Matt McKAY (c), 22.Thomas BROICH, 23.Milan SUSAK

Substitutes not used: 20.Andrew REDMAYNE (gk)

Yellow cards: Mitch NICHOLS 77'

Red cards:Nil

Victory smash AAMI ‘hoodoo’

By David Manuca

Melbourne Victory has won their first ever A-League game at AAMI Park on Sunday afternoon, thrashing the previously un-defeated Brisbane Roar 3-0 in front of 13,792 fans.

All three of the Victory’s goals came in the second half of the game, courtesy of Tom Pondeljak, Ricardinho and Grant Brebner. Melbourne had not won any of it’s previous games at AAMI Park after they drew 2-2 with North Queensland and lost 2-0 to Perth Glory, but finally broke through after a brilliant second half effort against the Roar.

After a quiet first half, the game burst into life just after half time with a five minute period which saw the Victory score twice. Coach Ange Postecoglou said he felt his team had lost their way after going down 1-0 early in the second half.

“We were quite pleased with the way things were going at half time,” Postecoglou said.

“We were pretty much in control of the game but then we conceded the first goal and lost a little bit of belief after that.

“I guess that’s where we are at as a team at the moment. We’re a work in progress. Melbourne Victory coach Ernie Merrick was as much pleased with the defensive effort as he was with the fact Melbourne had put on their best attacking performance of the season.

“The real pleasing thing was the clean sheet. We defended really well,” he said.

“In the front third we finished very well, with three goals.”

In just the third minute of the game, Henrique had to be substituted after colliding with Kevin Muscat. He appeared to fall badly on his elbow,



Victory's Ricardinho slips one past former Victory keeper Michael Theoklitos.
PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

and immediately Reinaldo rushed to his compatriots aid. Henrique walked off the pitch, but had to be stretchered off into the tunnel.

Melbourne dominated the opening period of the game and nearly took the lead in the 18th minute. The Victory were awarded a free kick on the corner of the area, and Hernandez’ brilliant strike was pushed onto the crossbar and out for a corner by Michael Theoklitos. In a rather un-eventful first half, Brisbane dominated for the rest of it keeping the ball and passing it around maginificently.

At half time the scores were locked at 0-0, but Brisbane had 58% of the possession to Victory’s 42%. Ernie Merrick then decided to look to the bench for some inspiration, bringing on Tom Pondeljak and Billy Celeski for Geoff Kellaway and Mate Dugandzic.

The move payed off almost immediately. Luke De Vere played a sloppy pass to the wrong side of Eric Paartalu, and Tom Pondeljak capatlised on the stray pass before letting off a strike which just scraped past Theoklitos. It was the first time the Brisbane keeper had been beaten all season, and in 10 games in the A-League. Melbourne wanted to extend their

lead, and went all out for a second goal. Just four minutes later they got a second, through some individual magic from Brazilian striker Ricardinho.

Ricardhino picked up the ball deep inside the Brisbane half, he then nut-megged Luke De Vere, cut inside the box and when it appeared he had over run the ball, he stuck his foot between the legs of De Vere and toe-poked the ball past the keeper.

Brisbane came into the game undefeated and without a goal against them, and in a five minute burst from the Victory they had conceded twice and appeared to be staring down the barrel of defeat. The entire Roar defence, especially De Vere, were having an afternoon to forget.

Ange Postecoglou rang the changes in the hope of sparking the Roar into life, but the introduction of Mitch Nichols and new striker Jean Carlo Solorzano failed to impact on proceedings.

A third goal came in the 71st minute, courtesy of Scotsman Grant Brebner. Hernandez played a one-two with Ricardinho, and the return pass from the Brazilian fell right into the path of Brebner who unleashed a rocket into the back of the

net. The win was soured though late in the game, when Muscat limped off the pitch after competing for the ball which left the Victory with just 10 men for the remainder of the match. He has suspected torn ankle ligaments, and may face a lengthy period on the sidelines.

Ernie Merrick addmitted the skipper may face atleast a month out of action, which would rule him out of the derby clash between Melbourne Heart on October 2nd, and the Grand Final rematch against Sydney FC two weeks later. “The initial diagnosis is he could have torn his lateral ligaments so it could be at least a month for Kevin,” Merrick said.

“He’s always a big miss Kevin because of his presence on the field.” The last time the Victory were without their skipper for an extended period they struggled badly, claiming just one win in six games during his absence at the start of last season.

Melbourne Victory now face Wellington Phoenix on Wednesday at AAMI Park, whilst the Roar play top of the table Adelaide United at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday.



Grant Brebner brings the house down at AAMI.
PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

2

1

Wellington Phoenix 2 (Paul Ifill 50', Nick Ward 72')

Sydney FC 1 (Bruno Cazarine 67')

Saturday, 11 September 2010

Westpac Stadium, Wellington

Referee: Chris Beath

Assistant Referees: Brent Best & Jan Hintz

Fourth Official: Matthew Conger

Crowd: 8,453

Wellington Phoenix line-up:
2.Manny MUSCAT, 3.Tony LOC-HEAD, 4.Nick WARD, 6.Tim BROWN, 7.Leo BERTOS, 8.Paul IFILL, 9.Chris GREENACRE (14.Mirjan PAVLOVIC '82), 13.Troy HEARFIELD, 18.Ben SIGMUND, 22 Andrew DURANTE (c)

Substitutes not Used: 11.DANIEL, 23.Dylan MACALLISTER, 30.Griffin MCMASTER (gk)

Yellow Cards: Nil

Red Cards: Nil.

Sydney FC Line-up: 1.Liam REDDY (gk), 2.Sebastian RYALL, 3.Stephan KELLER, 6.Hirofumi MORIYASU (16.Terry ANTONIS 80'), 8.Stuart MUSIALIK (c), 9.Bruno CAZARINE, 12.Shannon COLE, 19.Mark BRIDGE, 21.Scott JAMIESON (11.Kofi DANNING 66'), 22.Sung-Hwan BYUN, 23.Rhyan GRANT (5.Hayden FOXE 87')

Substitutes not Used: 20.Ivan NECEVSKI (gk),

Yellow Cards: Bruno Cazarine 49'.

Red Cards: Nil

Phoenix down undermanned Sky Blues

By Ben Hawes

An undermanned Sydney FC has been beaten 2-1 by the Wellington Phoenix at a rain swept Westpac Stadium in round six of the Hyundai A-League on Saturday night.

Without captain Terry McFlynn (hamstring), striker Alex Brosque (ankle) and gun midfielder Nicky Carle (toe), the Sky Blues battled gallantly in what was an even affair until the game changed in the 50th minute when referee Chris Beath judged new Brazilian striker Bruno Cazarine to have pulled down Wellington defender Ben Sigmund as a corner came in.

Paul Ifill stepped up and put the Phoenix ahead with his first goal against Sydney FC.

However, Sydney FC and Cazarine soon struck back when the Brazilian took a long ball on his chest before laying off to Mark Bridge who then put through a deft pass in behind the Wellington defence which Cazarine ran onto and clinically put away with his right foot in the 67th minute.

But the joy was short lived

when a 72nd minute screamer from Nick Ward put the Phoenix back in the lead, and the Kiwi's would hold on and in doing so maintained their amazing 20-plus unbeaten streak at the Cake Tin.

Despite the loss it was a much improved performance from Sydney FC and the game marked a special occasion for the club with the debut of 16-year-old talent Terry Antonis.

The defending A-League champions now have the bye before taking on the Gold Coast at the Sydney Football Stadium on Sunday 26 September and should be bolstered by the return of Brosque and McFlynn.

Wellington started the game the better of the two sides and at one point enjoyed 69% of possession during the first half but the Sky Blues rallied and the opening stanza ended relatively even.

The game changed just five minutes into the second half when Beath ruled Cazarine, who has starting his first A-League game, pulled down Sigmund as players from both sides were jostling for position.

Cazarine made a direct swap



SFC's Mark Bridge winthe heading contest on Saturday night but couldn't help the champs avoid defeat. PHOTO: Courtesy SFC

with Kofi Danning in the Sky Blues starting line-up and the big Brazilian battled hard all night and the partnership with Bridge showed glimpses of promise throughout the match, highlighted by their 1-2 that ended in a Sky Blues goal.

With the loss of Carle, who had been playing with a badly

broken big toe for the last two weeks, Hirofumi Moriyasu earned his first A-League start and turned in an excellent 80 minute performance before being replaced by Antonis. After Cazarine's goal, Sydney FC gained some ascendancy but Ward's goal will be one the best scored this season.

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6

Monday 13th September 2010

PERTH GLORY

0

GOLD COAST UNITED

1

Perth Glory 0
Gold Coast United 1 (Jason Culina 23')

Sunday, 12 September 2010
nib Stadium, Perth
Referee: Matthew Breeze
Assistant Referees: Mathew Cheeseman & Michael Nugus
Fourth Official: Josh Mannella
Crowd: 10,450

Perth Glory line-up: 1.Tando VELAPHI (gk), 3.Jamie COYNE, 5.Jamie HARNWELL (22.Anthony SKORICH 84'), 7.Jacob BURNS (C), 9.Robbie FOWLER, 12.Scott NEVILLE (4.Andy TODD 66'), 14.Steven McGARRY(11. Branko JELIC 76') , 16.Adriano PELLEGRINO, 17.Todd HOWARTH, 19.Naum SEKULOVSKI, 21.Mile STERJOVSKI

Substitutes not used: 20.Aleks VRTESKI (gk)

Yellow Cards: Mile Sterjovski 55'

Red cards: Nil

Gold Coast United line-up: 1.Glen MOSS (gk), 2.Steve PANTELIDIS, 3.Michael THWAITE, 6.Dino DJULBIC, 7.Zenon CARAVELLA, 10.Jason CULINA (C) , 11.Bruce DJITE (25. Chris BROADFOOT 85'), 15.Tahj MINNIECON (18.James BROWN 61'), 16.Kristian REES, 22.Adama TRAORE, 23.Steven FITZSIMMONS (13.Sebastiaan VAN DEN BRINK 71')

Substitutes not used: 20.Scott HIGGINS (gk)

Yellow Cards: Steve Fitzsimmons 34', Michael Thwaite 36'

Red cards: Nil

Impressive Coast stun Glory

By Neil Favager

A PURPOSEFUL and professional performance at Perth Glory's NIB Stadium has secured Gold Coast United's first win of the 2010/11 Hyundai A-League season, with a Jason Culina goal midway through the first half enough to give Miron Bleiberg's men all three points.

It was a well-deserved victory for United over a previously unbeaten Perth outfit, and was as much down to a magnificent second half defensive display as it was to the enterprising performance of the first 45 minutes.

Unfazed by Perth's lofty position on the ladder, Gold Coast showed an abundance of attacking intent from the first whistle and contributed plenty to what was an open, entertaining contest.

Much of that entertainment was to be found in the commitment and tackling tenacity of both sides. Adama Traore and Zenon

Caravella were heavily involved in all the action, with both on the receiving end of some close attention from the Glory midfield as United took control of the centre of the park.

After an impressive start to the match Gold Coast struck the decisive blow after 23 minutes with a classic counter attack. Steve Fitzsimmons was the architect, racing into a good position down the right-hand side before delivering a swirling cross into the box that was met by the head of Jason Culina.

The United skipper's first effort was brilliantly saved at point blank range by Perth custodian Tando Velaphi, but Velaphi was left helpless as Culina swooped on the loose ball and lashed it into the net.

Culina could have doubled his tally and Gold Coast's joy just minutes later, but fired over after another of Traore's determined runs down the left set him up.

Gold Coast held their deserved

lead until half-time but had goal-keeper Glen Moss to thank for preserving it soon after the restart. Freed by a deft touch from Robbie Fowler, Perth's Steven McGarry closed in on goal only to find Moss in inspired form and his brave low save kept the score at 1-0.

Perth were enjoying more possession as they pressed for a leveller, however United were a constant threat on the break and were denied a second goal when Culina was ruled offside after diverting Traore's mishit shot past Velaphi.

As the clock ticked down the home side pinned United back and it took a sterling rearguard display to keep Glory's forward line at bay. Gold Coast's central defensive pairing of Dino Djulbic and Kristian Rees were solid and assured, as was vice-captain Michael Thwaite who never far from the action.

"We looked fresh and eager and it was nice to actually have a game after two byes already this season," said Gold Coast Head

Coach, Miron Bleiberg.

"Our intention was to come here for the three points and our players stuck to the game-plan. I thought we did well against a very good Perth Glory team who hadn't lost a game so far this year.

"There was no plan to defend the way we had to in the second half, but Perth forced us to do that and all credit to them because they were causing us problems.

"It was a good performance and an important three points for us. Hopefully this win will kick-start our season and we can string some results together," he said.

After a stuttering start that included two byes in the opening rounds of the season, Miron Bleiberg's troops now face a cluster of fixtures in the next three weeks, starting with a home clash with the Central Coast Mariners next Sunday at Skilled Park.



Mile Sterjovski and Dino Djulbic in action yesterday PHOTO: PETER SIMCOX

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Gettin' the Soccer Pools in!

It often used to amuse me that when my son was playing for Bell Park and Geelong Rangers in the lower divisions of the Victorian League in the early 1990s that he could have an influence on the fortunes of millions of punters on football pools in the United Kingdom.

Though Australians gambled much more on pokies, Tattsлото, and horse racing, the football pools were huge element in the equivalent activities of people in Britain. In 1951 the pools were said to be Britain's seventh largest industry. So much so that the pools companies, Littlewoods, Vernons, Zettors and the like needed to find a way of keeping their hugely profitable enterprises going over the United Kingdom summer, when their football leagues took a three month break. They also needed to retain their skilled data entry and administrative staff. The women, for they were nearly all women, would be highly sought after by other employers if the pools were not operating. So the companies came up with the idea that they could use the games being played in Australia to fill the gap.

The main pool was the Treble Chance, which involved an attempt to forecast eight drawn games from matches played in the four divisions of the English League and the two or three divisions of the Scottish League. In those days matches were higher scoring affairs and draws were fewer. There were other competitions—Four Aways, Straight Six and a short list of matches which were presumed to be the most difficult to forecast. Most were run on a pool basis where a proportion of the money wagered was returned to the winners. Others were fixed odds offers, where the punter knew exactly what he or she stood to win provided the forecast was correct. There was an element of skill involved but also much luck. However, the pools, like horse racing, were based on the outcome of sporting contests, not just random number selection.

Victorian referees Wally Bates, Lou Hemmes and Chris Bambridge had the responsibility of providing the results to the pools companies who paid the Australian Soccer Federation and its predecessor for the use of their fixtures for this purpose. Occasionally the British media woke up to the fact that there was a difference between the game as played by the leading clubs in the



Article on Australia claiming a higher payment for use of its matches for the pools. Soccer World, 29 April 1960, p. 1.



Ross Hay in action for Geelong Rangers. Australian players could influence the fortunes of millions. Photo: Geelong Advertiser.



Article on the possibility of Australia developing its own soccer pools. Soccer World, 21 April 1972, p. 2.



Chris Bambridge. The leading Australian referee supplied the results to the English football pools companies. Photo: Les Shorrock. FFV collection.

English first division and matches in lower leagues in Australia. The News of the World had a story and picture that showed Victorian referee, Charlie Sultana, helping to remove cow pats from a ground before a match in the early 1970s.

Inevitably given the money involved there were episodes of match rigging and corruption. Probably the most high profile case involved Peter Swan, Tony Kay, both of whom were England internationalists, and David 'Bronco' Layne of Sheffield Wednesday who were imprisoned for throwing matches to enable money to be made from fixed odds betting. That occurred in the 1960s, but there have been other cases including one involving famous Liverpool keeper Bruce Grobbelaar. Scams are difficult to organize when a large number of matches are involved but if there is only one or a few it is easier. A betting syndicate was behind an episode in 1999 when the floodlights went out at Upton Park and Selhurst Park and might have done so at other grounds had action not been taken.

In Australia the pools had other influences. The Adelaide Croatia website notes that, "In 1959 the club convincingly won the second division championship and secured a place in the first division for the first time. Once in the first division, Adelaide Croatia's fixtures and results were listed in the international soccer pools. This was historically significant as Adelaide Croatia was the only Croatian team from Australia in the pools and its progress was thus followed by Croats all over the world."

Australian pools today run on a different basis. "Every week a list of soccer matches scheduled to be played each Saturday is generated and these are numbered 1 to 38. An additional selection of reserve matches numbered 39 to 60 is also generated. When these soccer matches are played, the games are ranked according to result. Score draws are ranked highest, with the number of goals determining how high. A 4-4 draw is therefore ranked higher than a 3-3 draw, which is ranked higher than a 2-2 draw, and so on. Scoreless draws are ranked below score draws, then away wins and home wins." They still use Australian games in the northern hemisphere summer. But it is very much assimilated to Australian lottery betting rather than a calculated bet on the outcome of football matches. That is assuming it was ever rational to bet on football!



MACKENZIE AT LARGE

An Occasional Offering from Craig MacKenzie

Baxter joins race for Prov Three place

BAXTER soccer club will bite the bullet and apply for membership of Football Federation Victoria's Provisional Three South-East competition.

The Bayside League outfit will use a \$1.2 million grant to spearhead its Provisional League push.

"We had 11 junior teams playing under the FFV banner this year and roughly 10 sub-junior sides," said president Colin Nicholson.

"Playing in the Bayside premier comp left us with nowhere else to go and we found that we were losing juniors to FFV clubs. If you don't have a senior team in an FFV league then you're looked upon as the little brother of other senior clubs. "On top of that we've got quite a few senior players who we believe are good enough to play at Provisional League level."

The seven-figure grant comprises \$100,000 from the Victorian state government, \$120,000 from the club itself and the remainder from Frankston City Council.

When the project at Baxter Park is completed next year the facility will boast six changing rooms, a large storage area and substantial social rooms.

Nicholson has been Baxter president for the past 10 years and represents his club on the Frankston City Soccer Liaison Committee which is made up of representatives from other clubs under that council banner – Langwarrin, Peninsula Strikers, Frankston Pines, Skye United and Seaford.

Frankston Council also is represented on that committee as is FFV through government relationship manager Maria Berry.

While Baxter believes that it can mount a powerful argument in support of its inclusion it may find itself in a tussle with Manningham and Glen Waverley for the two vacancies in the league.

If so then FFV will be faced with a dilemma as all three clubs have sound junior set-ups, especially Glen Waverley which fielded around 25 junior teams last season.

And as yet we don't know if other applicants will enter the race for inclusion in this competition.

What we do know is that the bottom two sides in Prov Three South-East and North-West are automatically relegated and can then apply for re-admission.

The process for clubs wanting to apply to compete in FFV competitions is that they have to complete an application that needs to address a range of criteria. Applications are then reviewed by FFV's competition's department which passes on its recommendations to FFV CEO Mark Rendell and the FFV board.

That gives the federation some breathing space as all up there are four vacancies at Prov Three level which means that if Baxter, Manningham and Glen Waverley all gain FFV approval one of them could be slotted into the North-West competition.

That surely wouldn't be Baxter's fate and while the possibility of such a switch may get Glen Waverley and Manningham a bit toey another option would be for FFV to switch Essendon Royals into the North-West league as its home ground is Ormond Park in Moonee Ponds. But before we get too far ahead of ourselves it may be the case that Glen Waverley, which currently lies second bottom in Prov Three South-East, leapfrogs third-last Noble Park as Glen Waverley has two games in hand.



Langwarrin's ace goalkeeper Chris Jones retired after Saturday's final game of the season.

Photo: DARRYL KENNEDY.

Glen Waverley lost 2-1 to Keysborough on Saturday while Noble Park beat Manningham 3-1. Those results saw Noble Park edge two points clear of Glen Waverley in the fight to avoid being forced to re-apply for admission. Both clubs have a minus 15 goal difference but Noble Park has scored more goals, which could mean that two draws are not enough for Glen Waverley.

The first of Glen Waverley's catch-up games will be played tonight (Monday) at Darebin International Sports Centre when it clashes with Old Trinity Grammarians. Its other catch-up game is pencilled in for this Saturday against Eltham Redbacks at Glen Waverley North Reserve (Madeline Street, Glen Waverley).

While the fixturing forces Glen Waverley to play two games in two days, club president Steve Foster is confident that the team can get the precious points it requires.

"It's hard work at this level having to play two games in a couple of days but from an FFV perspective there were a lot of games to catch up on so I understand the position the federation was in," said Foster.

"While it's not a good position to be in our fate is in our own hands though and we think we're good enough to get the three points we need."

Tonight's DISC game is interesting given that Glen Waverley trains on a FIFA Grade Two synthetic surface.

Noble Park could be excused for waiting with baited breath for the outcome of Glen Waverley's season for if the latter avoids automatic relegation then the FFV spotlight will shine firmly upon Noble Park and the club could face an almighty battle to retain its Provisional League status.

Noble Park has only a handful of junior teams, which places it behind the eight-

ball compared to Baxter, Glen Waverley and Manningham. It has a women's team which finished seventh in State Two South-East this year, however, it was found guilty in May of club misconduct following a game with Monash University FC.

Noble Park was fined \$3000 and when FFV sits down to assess a club's credentials for re-admission then disciplinary record is taken into account.

Manningham already has finished last in the 12-team league and will definitely apply for re-admission and when you delve into the club's claims it would be strange if FFV gave it the thumbs down. Manningham can demonstrate clearly that it is in a growth area for the sport with over 1600 registered players within the council's boundaries.

Manningham fielded 13 junior teams last season and late last month six years of negotiations came to fruition with news that the local council will turn Petty's Reserve into a "class A" soccer facility for the club featuring two full-sized pitches, a temporary crushed rock carpark and protective netting behind the goals in stage one of a significant redevelopment of the facility.

Manningham already has use of Timber Ridge Reserve but club president Luke Neofytou has long argued the case for extra space for training and competitive games and lauded the council decision.

"Turning Petty's Reserve into a soccer field is a good example of a council listening to local sporting clubs and understanding what is needed," he said. "While we don't want to take space away from other clubs there is definitely a growing need for soccer facilities, especially in Manningham."

There's little doubt that the relationship between club and council is strong. Last week the club's junior wing held its an-

nual presentation night at Manningham Council Chambers on Doncaster Road. But there is another ace up Manningham's sleeve according to Neofytou. "We're not running around with 40-year-olds in the seniors," he said. "The oldest player in our senior team last season was 22 and I really think that that carries a bit of weight with the federation." Hmmm. I'm starting to understand how difficult a task it can be for FFV in such circumstances. It has no option but to discriminate between applicants. Thank goodness the rest of us are sitting on the sidelines for this one.

Jonesy calls it a day
CHRIS Jones, widely acknowledged as one of the finest keepers in Victoria, retired after Saturday's final game of the season.

Langwarrin's club captain and first team custodian for the past six seasons made the decision over two months ago and told senior coach Gus Macleod in strict confidence.

Jones turned 35 in July and given that keepers aren't exactly shuffled off to Buffalo at such an age his announcement came as a surprise.

"Work commitments played a big part as it's increasingly difficult to be available on Saturdays. And the fact that I'd probably need a knee reco came into it too," said Jones, who is the business manager for Mercedes Benz in Berwick.

He injured his knee against Fawkner in round two this year and missed a number of games before hobbling back into action and seeing out the remainder of the season.

Jones started his career as a six-year-old with Karingal United. "I was the short fat kid that they shoved in goal," he said. Former George Cross and Victorian state star Lou Kastner gave Jones his senior de-

but before Gus Macleod lured the young keeper to Springvale City for a couple of seasons.

During his time there Jones trialled with Man U, Liverpool, Sheffield United and Tranmere Rovers.

He spent a season with Bentleigh Greens and half a season with Oakleigh who lost their star keeper to South Melbourne after playing a practice game against their fellow Greek-backed outfit.

"I think we drew 1-1 with Souths back then. It was just one of those games where you couldn't do anything wrong."

His five seasons with Hellas were highlighted by the three games he played in the 2000 FIFA World Club Championship against Man U, Necaxa and Vasco da Gama in Rio's famous Maracana stadium.

After that tournament Jones agreed terms with Spanish outfit Seville but the deal fell through albeit that South Melbourne and Seville had reached agreement over his transfer fee.

"I don't want to talk about that other than to say it had absolutely nothing to do with me," said Jones.

He returned to Middle Park but when Eddie Krncevic took over as senior coach Jones didn't see eye to eye with him which hastened Jones's departure.

Jones headed overseas once more this time signing for Brighton and Hove Albion where a striker called Bobby Zamora (who, incidentally, broke his leg playing for Fulham on Saturday) was making a name for himself.

Jones joined in February and played out what was a successful season for the Seagulls under manager Peter Taylor.

"Brighton wanted me to stay but when Peter Taylor left the club couldn't commit itself until it had signed the new manager. I had my wife and my 10-month old child in England with me but I had a mortgage in Melbourne so I decided to come back."

He took a break from the game before pulling on the gloves for Frankston Strikers, a club his parents were involved with after their long association with Karingal. He played there for two seasons before reuniting with Macleod at Langwarrin.

"Gus has done so much for me and for so many other players. Lots of players say that if you go to Langy you never really leave and it's true in many ways. "Gus is a genuinely nice bloke. We've been in the same boat a few times when we've had offers that could have doubled and even tripled our money but Langy's a great club."

"The committee always stands by you. Even when we get well beaten no-one talks you down. It's all about next week and bouncing back."

"I don't think Langy's too far away from Premier League. If we can keep the two goalscorers up front and get another keeper then we'll do well next season. There are a lot of younger players in that side now – Alex, Brendan, young Joe, Ray and Simon – and I reckon we're pretty close."

Jones has four young children, three of whom play for Langwarrin's juniors. When I put it to him that he's in a race against Alex Rae in the fatherhood stakes he couldn't resist the opportunity for a gentle jibe at his pal.

"No, there no race there, mate. I couldn't trust myself so I got the snip some time back. I'm not as dumb as Alex, the big plonker!"



BOO'S WORLD

With Mark Boric



Another season in Victorian football is over, congratulations to Green Gully on a dominant performance to take out the 2010 AVPL Grand Final. Indeed congratulations to all the winners this season, from the VPL right down to the Thirds and Veterans where I notice Frank Hajnci is still doing the business for Sandringham City.

Well done to Craig MacKenzie on winning the Best News Article Award at the FFV Gold Medal Night. Well done also to the FFV on giving him this award even though this paper has been critical of the organisation at times. Well, a lot of times. Especially Katsa.

Betty Hoar made the best speech of the Gold Medal Night upon being inducted into the Hall of Fame, certainly a very dedicated and generous lady. Harry



Ryan Ollerton (right) and Mile Medjedovic get their hands on the cup. Photo: John Punshon

Dockerty was also inducted, but perhaps a more fitting tribute to him would be bringing back the Dockerty Cup. Jimmy Rooney was unable to attend due to a recent hip operation, but was well represented by his children.

Hopefully this new Hall of Fame will be more than just handing over a few plaques once a year, but given the FFV website currently lacks a History section we will just have to wait and see.

Well the possible greatest final

day for a season fizzled out somewhat in State Division One last weekend when Springvale White Eagles and St Albans both won. White Eagles assured themselves of promotion, and St Albans put themselves in prime position

for promotion as the chance for seven teams to go into the final round with promotion a possibility fizzled out. It would still be a day of high drama through, as the Saints easily registered the win they needed to secure promotion with a 6-1 thumping of Malvern City whilst Springvale blew a 4-2 lead to lose 4-5 at home to Bulleen Lions to allow the Saints to storm home and clinch the Championship. Congratulations to all concerned.

Australia's second game under Holger Osieck resulted in a slightly fortunate 2-1 win over Poland. It was backs against the walls stuff at times, but a penalty save from Adam Federici may be the moment the Socceroos found a worthy successor for Mark Schwarzer. Now can we work on finding a replacement for David Carney. I swear I'd be better than him if I was to get fit.



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Sky's the limit for Falcons



Falcons' Ken Higgins (blue strip) in action against Churchill.

Falcons 2000 Soccer Club will be setting their sights on taking out a double this year to improve on their memorable victory in the 'Battle of Britain Cup' last year. With 2009 marking 37 years since the Falcons had their name on the cup, they are now set to meet Monash United in the Finals again. Monash will no doubt be out to prove a point and make amends for last year's defeat but Falcons appear to have peaked at the right time and are proving a hard nut to crack at the moment. Falcons recently inflicted the 3rd defeat in a row

at top side Churchill Rams home ground to knock the Rams out of the top 4 finals. This important win puts Falcons in two Grand finals for 2010 with the top 4 finals to be played on 19th and a re-scheduled Battle of Britain Final to be played against local rivals Fortuna 60 SC a week later on 26th September. Both finals will be played at La-trobe City Sports & Entertainment Centre (formerly Falcons Park from the NSL days). For all Falcons 2000 SC results, pictures and information, visit www.falcons2000.com.au.



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We're not dead just yet!

By Con Stamocostas

So the A League is dying, the sky is falling in and the prophets of doom have proclaimed that a lot of football fans will have to find another religion- well boo to them, boo to them all.

Recently I had pleasure of speaking to a couple of the A-League's most promising and talented players. The first was the North Queensland and Socceroo attacking player David Williams and the second was the Newcastle Jets and Young Socceroo Captain midfielder Ben Kantarovski.

First to David Williams who arrived on the scene in 2006 playing in a couple of substitute appearance for the then named Queensland Roar. The 18 year must have impressed someone because soon enough David won a dream move to Brondby in Denmark where he played for the next three seasons. So inevitably after that move Dave was touted as the next big thing.

However as the football cliché goes a new manager comes in and during his third season David lost his place in the side. Eager to play regular football David came back to play with the North Queensland Fury last season and fans got to see an exciting quick and dangerous attacking player.

One of the first questions I asked Dave was about was his time in Denmark.

You signed with Brondby at 18 years of age that must have been an exciting time making a dream move to a European club?

David Williams: I loved it. I lived right in Copenhagen it's such a beautiful city and even in the winter and in the summer there are lots of things to do. I enjoyed every day I was there. I'd love to go back, but I just want to be somewhere where I can play football. I'd love to live again one day in Copenhagen. For me it was the perfect city it had everything I wanted there. I was very comfortable.

I was still young and it was something I really wanted to do. Sometime players leave it to late to go overseas and don't get their real breakthrough. For me I went over and I was in the youth team for a while. Then I made the first team and I was consistently playing and unfortunate events happened over there and I just found myself not making the squad so I had to do what I can to play regularly and North Queensland Fury threw me a life line back then and I am very happy that they did because I am very happy where I am at the moment.

Some reports said the club sent you out on trial to South African club Bidvest Wits after you demanded a place in the starting line up; can you tell us what happened?

DW: A club can't force you to do things. They didn't send me on trial. There was an opportunity to go to South Africa and I took that opportunity to see what it was like and see the players and see how it was and it just didn't suit me. I just didn't



Ben Kantarovski

have a good feeling about it, so I came back. At the age I was I needed to play regular football, it didn't matter what league it was in, what division. I just needed to play regular football.

How was playing with Robbie Fowler it looked like he had a good rapport with all the players and there didn't seem to be too much of a superstar ego trip going on?

DW: Yeah not at all he just another person in the team that everyone looked up to. He was a player that you can learn a lot off. Obviously having the media profile that he did have there was more media commitments and things that he would do, but that is just a part of his life is and everyone adjusted to that.

For us seeing where he has come from to where he is now is a great journey for him. I think he is very comfortable and loves every minute of living in Australia. Playing alongside Robbie Fowler was excellent. It was a good experience that a lot of players have never had and want and I was lucky enough to be able to do that.

Not since Richie Benaud has there been so much talk about a white jacket. Unlike Richie Benaud who only wore the one coat for 40 years, Franz Straka is reported to have 300. Your new coach seems eccentric with loud jackets and exciting antics on the sidelines, did he turn up with the white suit when you first met him?

DW: He did have some white pants on. He was very European looking; he has got a good fashion sense. For a European I think he fits right in. He brings a bit of a different fashion sense here, he's a character. He didn't have to change



David Williams

completely to fit into a place like this.

With young players like Isaka Cernak, Chris Grossman , Osama Malik, Chris Payne and yourself he has really embraced a youth philosophy?

DW: Some of these players didn't get their chance at other clubs so they have come here and they are good footballers. I mean you don't sign an A-League contract because you are a bad player.

It was just a confidence thing for some of these boys just getting a few games under them and someone on the sidelines patting them on the back and telling them they do a good job. Also someone who can give the right critical advice to players as well is very important. The coach just gets the very best out of his players.

For me playing with Chris and Isaka up front, it's very exciting for us. We never what's going on and we never if Chris Payne is going to pass it or not. Ben Kantarovski does not get the headlines like some of the other A-League players do save for a screamer of an own goal against the Melbourne Heart earlier this season his biggest claim to fame is being the youngest ever player to play in the A League.

Ben Kantarovski has been quietly making his progress. If you can call an invitation to Bayern Munich quiet, captaining the under -20 Australian team in two different campaigns quiet or being compared to Ned Zelic and Paul Okon quiet then imagine when things start getting loud. With all the tumult happening recently with the Newcastle Jets Ben kindly gave

us his time and I was very happy to speak to one of Australia's most promising players. Let's just hope by the time you read this the Newcastle Jets are still around and that Ben and his teammates are still playing.

Hey Ben you are in your third A League season. You were the youngest ever A League player. What would you say is different from the person and player that made his debut in January 2008?

Ben Kantarovski: My age is probably the biggest difference, I was pretty young when I started and have obviously matured a little bit particularly off the field. On the field, I think I have matured in terms of the way I play.

Tell us a bit about your path as a footballer. How did you discover football? Who are the people in your life that have contributed to your football education the most?

BK: I was brought up playing football since I was a baby really, I have experienced every other sport having played cricket, tennis, rugby, swimming, all those sort of sports and I have had a good go at them as well but they were not really for me and football was the one that prevailed – it always came first. There are a wide number of people who contributed to my football including coaches like Richard Hartley but the biggest influence was my dad.

Around March 2009 you went to Bayern Munich for a look can you tell us about your experience in Germany?

BK: Bayern Munich approached me and it was a good experience. They had a good look at me and I got to experience the European side of football and it was great to be a part of that culture and that environment.

What is the most shocking thing you have seen on a football pitch? It could be an outages skill, some violence, a goal, a save or anything that has happened on the football pitch?

BK: Probably have to be Angelo Costanzo and his on field antics which I would love to have on the field any day.

I say ignore the white elephant in the room. Sure the pulse of the A-League is weak but like Monty Python sings I'm going to look on the bright side of life. And there is nothing more bright than seeing young players light up a football pitch.

Both these interviews will appear in full in the next issue of Half Time Heroes out late September.

In the meantime catch the latest edition on [http://halftimeheroes.com.au/featuring 44 pages of football with an Exclusive interview with Sydney FC star Kofi Danning](http://halftimeheroes.com.au/featuring44pagesoffootballwithanExclusiveinterviewwithSydneyFCstarKofiDanning). Also including stories on the Socceroos, A-League, EPL, La Liga, Cartoons, Comedy and heaps more.

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The future of English football?

English players are often described as being somewhat less advanced than their foreign counterparts when it comes to the technical side of the game.

Often players lack a good first touch, cannot hold onto a ball for long periods of time, and rely too heavily on their so called passion and commitment over their quality and assurance. Yet it may just be that there is a young English talent who seems ready to buck all of these trends, and his name is Jack Wilshere.

In case you aren't aware, Jack Wilshere is an 18 year old prodigy coming up through the ranks of Arsenal football club. He recently made his England debut against Hungary at England's home Wembley Stadium, and has already made several starts in the league, including some for Bolton last year when he was on loan from the Gunners.

Now it's important to mention that English football is always looking for a proverbial 'magic bullet'; a player or manager who can come in and revolutionise over sixty years of underachievement and failure. And it is of course possible that in the coming years Wilshere will prove to be just one more professional in a long list who have flattered to deceive when it comes to playing at the highest level.

Take David Dunn for instance, who about ten years ago was believed by some to be a real stand out player; a left sided winger who could create havoc for opposition defences and who would be able to fill the gap on England's left side which has been a problem for so long. And yet his career hasn't quite panned out like that, as he has just the one England cap, and has never really looked like a top player, even if he is a very decent player, and an inspirational leader for a team like Blackburn Rovers.



Jack the lad: Jack Wilshere's career seems set to take off and he may well be just the tonic English football is thirsty for.

ers.

What makes me believe that this will not be the case for Wilshere though is simply how many people have been raving about this kid for so very long now. As an Arsenal fan I had heard his name over two years ago, way before he got near a league start for the Gunners, let alone an England call up.

Everyone from those who have trained him, including Arsenal legend Liam Brady, to players that have played alongside him, to the managers who have had the fortune to pick him, have waxed lyrical about how good this young man is, and just how good he could become. Stuart Pearce and Owen Coyle have both looked after him for a spell, with the England under 21's and Bolton respectively, and both think very highly of him.

But the biggest praise without a doubt comes from the Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger, who so far this season has seen Wilshere as

a first team choice, albeit with injuries to some other Arsenal midfielders. For Wenger to really get behind an English talent is not far from being unheard of, yet Wenger believes Wilshere to be on the same track as fellow Arsenal genius Cesc Fabregas.

What makes Wilshere such an exciting prospect is that he does possess skills that hardly any other English player has shown for a good twenty years or so, with the possible exception of a one Wayne Rooney. Wilshere is as technically sound as his European counterparts at Arsenal, and can pass and keep possession just as well as any other player to wear the red and white of Arsenal. It has to be said that if you do not look out of place passing and moving in the current Gunners side then you must have a high level of passing, technical and attacking talent. So for an 18 year old Wilshere to look part of this team hints at something special for the future.

In London Calling last week fellow columnist Leroy Robinson suggested that England do not have creative midfielders who can play across the middle of the park, in the mould of Rafael van der Vaart. And that is certainly very true of almost all English midfielders around today, and most English midfielders since at least the inception of the Premier League. Yet it's my opinion, one shared by many that have seen him play over an extended period of time, that Jack Wilshere could be the creative spark that England have always lacked.

Of course it is still too soon to say that he will definitely be a world beater, or even a top international player, but let us just assume for the sake of this article that Wilshere lives up to his potential. He would be a playmaker for England, who could play across the midfield, and who could unlock stubborn opposition defences almost on his own.

This exact talent was on display during the England under 21 game against Lithuania last Tuesday, where England's youngsters were struggling to break down a stingy Lithuanian defence. Boss Stuart Pearce had decided to place Wilshere on the bench due to some personal problems, but turned to the Arsenal lad when his team couldn't get a goal. Wilshere responded by coming on and setting up an England goal with a deft and highly intelligent through ball, and then continued spraying passes all around in a real stand out performance. England have had good passers before, but not with the same creativity and attacking threat that Wilshere possesses, as one pass from him can rip a defence apart.

And at this stage in his career he is at the perfect club with the perfect manager to nurture his talent and not push him too fast too soon. Also, he has an ideal role model in Cesc Fabregas, as both share similar qualities. Both are quick, nimble passers of the ball who have an eye for goal, and who are also similar in terms of stature and body shape.

One weakness that Wilshere could possess is his lack of size, yet as Fabregas has proved, as did other greats over the years such as Maradona, size isn't everything and as long as you are strong and committed you can hold larger players off and maintain possession and position.

As I have said, it is still too soon to be crowning Wilshere as the next great England star, yet if he continues to get better at the rate he has done so far, then the sky really is the limit for him. I know that I hope he fulfils his potential and becomes the next big thing in English football, and if his shoulders are broad enough he may be able to lift England to glory.

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Does Wayne Rooney Need Protection?

By Leroy Robinson

Have you ever looked forward to something so much you nearly wet your pants? Me neither. Yet there was a time prior to the Everton-Man United game on Saturday that my bladder may have twitched in anticipation of proceedings.

Then I saw the team sheets. After days of speculation about whether Wayne Rooney would play - following allegations involving the England striker visiting a £1,200 (that's English pounds sterling, not Aussie dollars!) a night prostitute while his wife was pregnant - he wasn't even in the United squad. Yet he was good enough to start for England in mid-week. Ok, I accept there's a difference between being safely tucked away from an intrusive British press in Switzerland and what happened afterward.

Since Rooney returned to England he has made the front pages nearly every day, and that is a very bad thing for a professional footballer that is still active and not in need of publicity.

During a press conference 24 hours earlier a testy Sir Alex Ferguson came out straight away and said he wouldn't talk about his player's private lives and would only answer football-related questions. It wasn't like the press expected him to provide explicit details of Rooney's mental state; they were tossing some bait into the water simply because they had some. Yet isn't a player's mental state prior to playing an integral part of whether he's fit to be on the pitch? Of course it is. The problem is it's seen as a weakness if Ferguson was to come out and say that Rooney's ability to play has been affected by off-pitch issues. Let's face it; anyone facing the media intrusion the Rooney's have faced is going to be affected.

Nonetheless I am surprised and baffled by SAF leaving him out of his squad for the game against Everton. Here are the facts: Wayne Rooney is 24 years old, married with a child. Does Ferguson believe this grown man isn't mature enough to handle the pressure? Does he trust him? Would it not have been better for Rooney to get on his bike and play right away? This is what Ferguson said after the Everton game:

"He gets terrible abuse here (at Goodison Park)...we're not going to subject him to that type of abuse..."

Reading between the lines that



Wayne Rooney may need more than a magic sponge after his recent off-field revelations.

is his way of saying that after all that's happened he wants to protect Wayne. I get that. But isn't that the very reason you put him out against Everton? Get the worst of the abuse over with because what doesn't kill you will make you stronger? Ferguson obviously believed that the abuse this time around would have been far more personal. But is he saying Wayne can't handle it? Could it have been any worse than what happened to John Terry who was England captain at the time? Maybe. But Rooney has to step out and play sometime or is SAF going to only play him at Old Trafford. The point is if you don't play a player because he's going to get abused then the black players like John Barnes and Cyrille Regis in the 1980s would never have played because that ladies and gentlemen was big-time abuse - and it wasn't because they'd been recruited from London Zoo that bananas were thrown their way. They had to suck it up and they grew stronger.

In fact Brian Clough made a joke of it when Regis told him they were throwing fruit. He said something like "get me some apples and a pound of bananas". The point is crap happens, deal with it or get consumed by it.

These guys shouldn't have been abused for doing their job, and neither should Rooney, but whatever is

next? Lady Gaga not doing a concert because she may get booed? Man United fans may be dismayed at the decision, but it did not cost them victory in what was an enthralling 3-3 draw against Everton. Ultimately the draw-come-defeat was down to Everton's never-say-die attitude and United's defence falling apart. The sooner Rio gets back the better for them. Yet it's not all gloom. They are unbeaten in the league and they couldn't have hand picked an easier UCL group. In the long run they'll be fine.

Rooney is another matter. Being on the outside of the Rooney situation I can't offer any insight into whether the abuse he gets at Goodison Park was really behind his omission. What I do know is that SAF has a track record of protecting his players when need be and of thrusting them into the spotlight when he thinks they are ready. When Cristiano Ronaldo helped get Rooney sent off when England played Portugal he was back playing straight away despite the inevitable abuse. You see Ronaldo was like a panto villain, he lapped up the acclaim as much as the derision, using it to spur him on. With Rooney I can only imagine that Fergie's seen something in his demeanour this week or maybe the player has been asked to be left out.

Add the potential for abuse at Goodison Park to the fact that his wife's sister is in hospital with a life-threatening illness then you can understand if Mrs. Rooney said to Wayne that this weekend might be a good time to cry off and "talk things over". I can't imagine Wayne choosing not to play; he just loves football too much for that. However, I do think the allegations have had an effect. Look at his goal against the Swiss. Ok, it was a bog standard tap-in, but did he really have to celebrate with as little gusto as if he'd just beaten his 10-month-old son Kai in a drinking contest?

Rumour had it that Mrs. Rooney was at her parents' house when he returned on Wednesday after the game, but it is entirely understandable she'd seek the protective shield of her family. The question is does Wayne require similar protection from the United "family"? I don't normally side with footballers who allegedly cheat on their wives. Footballers are paid to play and unless there is a death in the family or a serious illness I don't think self-inflicted harm to be of a sufficient nature to stop playing. There are exceptions and for that reason I'm with Ferguson on this occasion. Look at the equation:

Lurid allegations + upset wife with baby + hostile crowd + intrusive

press + family illness = just about a good enough reason not to play.

It would hardly be a surprise if SAF took off his own back, told Rooney he wasn't playing and decided to give him time off for bad behaviour. Whatever the truth, I do know that Ferguson commands a lot of loyalty because he'll defend his players better than any lawyer. A word of caution for Rooney and Fergie though; if you're hoping the circus leaves town forget it. Whatever happens between Mr. and Mrs. Rooney they will be the main event in the tabloids for quite some time, or until another married footballer scandal comes along. The problem is they can't rely on Ashley Cole for that type of story anymore.

Tottenham Hotspur: Here Are the Rules

Spurs continue to do an impression of a team of strangers. A loss at home to Wigan and a draw at West Brom aren't good enough for a club who seem to have forgotten the first rule for teams that have newly qualified for the UEFA Champions League. *You must do enough to qualify for next year's competition too.* Though they pulled off a couple of good acquisitions - in William Gallas and Rafael van der Vaart - their squad still lacks the solidity and ruthlessness to be consistently in the top four. The injuries to Jermain Defoe and Michael Dawson have exposed a thinness at the back and a lack of pace upfront. Now that Luka Modric is out too these are testing times for Spurs.

Without the ability to dip back into the transfer market they'll have to rely on a squad containing "nice" players such as Bale, Huddlestone, Lennon, Assou-Ekotto, Jenas, Kranjcar and Palacios - good players but not a decent tackler amongst them. When times get tough I'd prefer the spine of my team to show some backbone. Spurs next six games in the league are against Wolves (H), West Ham (A), Aston Villa (H), Fulham (A), Everton (H) and Manchester United (A). Last year they took 8 points from these games. If they do that again this term they'll have 13 points from 10 games. To put that into perspective Chelsea have 12 points from 4 games. A potential average of 1.3 points per game is mid table form at best. There may be trouble ahead for Spurs, and I see them breaking the second rule of the UCL - *You must do enough to qualify for next year's competition too!*



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WAG OF THE WEEK



Lauren Pope Age: 27
Insignificant Other: Shaun Wright Phillips (Manchester City)



Couch Potato Dept.

* ALL TIMES ARE AEST



PREMIER LEAGUE			
Sep 14 Stoke v Aston Villa	4.55 am		
Sep 18 Stoke v West Ham	9.40 pm		
Sep 18 West Brom v Birmingham	11.55 pm		
Sep 18 Aston Villa v Bolton	11.55 pm	Viewers Choice	
Sep 18 Blackburn v Fulham	11.55 pm	Viewers Choice	
Sep 18 Everton v Newcastle	11.55 pm	Viewers Choice	
Sep 18 Tottenham v Wolves	11.55 pm	Viewers Choice	
Sep 19 Sunderland v Arsenal	2.25 am		
Sep 19 Manchester United v Liverpool	10.25 pm		
Sep 19 Wigan v Manchester City	11.55 pm		
Sep 20 Chelsea v Blackpool	12.55 am		

A-LEAGUE	
Sep 15 Melbourne v Wellington	7.00 pm
Sep 17 Newcastle v Perth	7.30 pm
Sep 18 North Queensland v Melbourne	5.00 pm
Sep 18 Brisbane v Adelaide	7.00 pm
Sep 19 Melbourne v Wellington	2.30 pm
Sep 19 Gold Coast v Central Coast	5.00 pm

NPOWER CHAMPIONSHIP	
Sep 18 Doncaster v Leeds	4.30 am
Sep 19 Hull v Nottingham Forest	2.15 am

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Every Saturday
10.30am



Monday 13th September 2010
01:30 pm Serie A Matchday 2: Teams TBA
10:30 pm World Football News

Tuesday 14th September 2010
07:00 am World Football News (Rpt)
02:00 pm World Football News (Rpt)
10:00 pm Liverpool TV Birmingham V Liverpool

Thursday 16th September 2010
08:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights
09:00 am The Serie A Highlights Show
10:00 am Football: Game Of The Week
04:00 pm Arsenal TV Arsenal V Bolton Wanderers

Saturday 18th September 2010
06:30 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights (Rpt)
07:30 am Liverpool TV (Rpt) Birmingham V Liverpool

Sunday 19th September 2010
11:00 am Bundesliga Matchday 4: Teams TBA
01:00 pm Serie A Matchday 3: Fiorentina V Lazio



Monday 13th September
7am Serie A – Genoa vs Chievo
8:45am Bundesliga – Mainz vs Kaiserslautern
10:30am J-League – FC Tokyo vs Urawa Reds
12:15pm Serie A – Catania vs Parma
5:45pm Serie A – Lecce vs Fiorentina
7:30pm Bundesliga Highlights Show

Tuesday 14th September
1am Russian Premier League – Zenit St Petersburg vs Tom Tomsk
2:45am League of Ireland – St Patrick's vs Shamrock Rovers
4:30am League of Ireland – Dundalk vs Shamrock Rovers LIVE
7am Russian Premier League – Lokomotiv Moscow vs CSKA Moscow
7pm Serie A Daily News
7:15pm The Serie A Show
7:45pm SPL Highlights Show

Wednesday 15th September
2:45pm Serie A Daily News

Thursday 16th September
7pm J-League Highlights Show
7:30pm Portuguese Liga Highlights Show

Friday 17th September
9:30am Copa Sudamericana – Banfield vs Velez Sarsfield LIVE
7pm Serie A Daily News
7:45pm Bundesliga Preview Show

Saturday 18th September
4:30am Bundesliga – Frankfurt vs Freiburg LIVE
11:45am Copa Sudamericana High-

lights Show
12:45pm Serie A Daily News
9pm SPL – Inverness vs Hearts LIVE
11:55pm TBC LIVE

Sunday 19th September
4:40am Serie A – AC Milan vs Catania LIVE
7am Blue Square Premier – Luton Town vs AFC Wimbledon
8:45am J-League – Shonan Belmare vs Kawasaki Frontale
7pm Serie A Daily News
7:45pm Russian Premier League – Teams TBC
9:45pm SPL – Kilmarnock vs Celtic LIVE

Monday 20th September
3am Serie A – Bari vs Cagliari
4:40am Serie A – Sampdoria vs Napoli LIVE
7am Serie A – Roma vs Bologna
8:45am Serie A – Parma vs Genoa
10:30am Portuguese Liga – Benfica vs Sporting Lisbon
5:45pm Eredivisie – Feyenoord vs Ajax
7:30pm Bundesliga Highlights Show
8:30pm Serie A – Palermo vs Inter



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Everton snatch draw with Man Utd

Everton staged a stunning comeback to score twice in injury-time to deprive Manchester United of victory after Sir Alex Ferguson dropped Wayne Rooney for his return to Goodison Park.

United looked to be making light of Rooney's absence for Ferguson's 700th game in Premier League management as they held a comfortable two-goal lead at the start of three minutes of added time.

Everton, who had looked neat in possession without having a cutting edge, found a foothold in the game with Tim Cahill's header and, with United suddenly rocking, Mikel Arteta fired home a deflected equaliser to spark wild scenes of celebration.

Rooney did not even travel with the United squad after a week of allegations about his private life, but for so long it did not look as if Ferguson's decision would prove costly.

The outstanding Steven Pienaar gave Everton the lead just before half-time, but Darren Fletcher equalised within four minutes and when Nemanja Vidic and Dimitar Berbatov added further goals to put United in total command they looked assured of victory.

Everton's former Manchester United keeper Tim Howard had kept them in contention with a succession of fine saves - and the value of his contribution was underscored in that stunning finale.

United were left shell-shocked, and Everton boss David Moyes even ran on to remonstrate with referee Martin Atkinson at the end after he blew his whistle with Phil Jagielka closing in on goal, presumably claiming there was more time to play.

Ferguson will be left to rue United's failure to emphasise their superiority in the second half - and perhaps the fact that Rooney was not able to influence affairs.

Everton made the early running as United adjusted to the absence of Rooney - but it was still Ferguson's side that carved out the better chances in a pulsating first 45 minutes.

Moyes attempted to cure Everton's lack of goals this season by using Cahill in the unfamiliar role of striker, supported by the giant figure of Marouane Fellaini.

And again, while Everton showed great promise in possession, there was a lack of cutting edge that meant too often their approach work came to nothing in the opening stages.

John O'Shea almost broke the deadlock in spectacular fashion after 15 minutes with a rising drive that beat Howard but glanced off the outside of the post.

Everton wasted an opportunity to take the lead when Tony Hibbert's cross was deflected invitingly into the path of Leighton Baines inside the area, but the defender miscued a tame attempt.



Two dramatic late goals earn Everton a draw against Manchester United at Goodison Park.

Howard then came to Everton's rescue twice in swift succession with outstanding saves, first with his legs from Paul Scholes' deflected effort and then a fine one-handed stop from Ryan Giggs as he looked poised to score.

The stalemate ended six minutes before the interval, and it was Everton who made the breakthrough. Patrice Evra's error allowed Arteta to break clear, and even though Edwin van der Sar saved his effort, Leon Osman had the presence of mind to set up Pienaar from the rebound for a comfortable finish.

Everton's lead lasted only four minutes as United hit back in style as Fletcher timed his run perfectly to steer home Nani's brilliant cross.

And Nani was the creator again as United took the lead two minutes after half-time, once more producing the perfect delivery for Vidic to steer a downward header beyond Howard.

After Howard was again forced to save from Nani, United produced a masterpiece of technique to add the third after 66 minutes.

Scholes' pass dropped perfectly behind the struggling Sylvain Distin for Berbatov to control instantly before he demonstrated great confidence to steer a finish past Howard.

This enthralling encounter looked to be moving towards an inevitable conclusion until that dramatic late Everton surge earned a point.

Cahill headed home a cross from Baines to give Goodison hope, and the Australian then headed another cross from the defender into the path of Arteta, who scored via a deflection off Scholes.

Meanwhile, Chelsea kept up their impeccable start to the season, hardly breaking sweat as they brushed aside a West Ham side who remain rock bottom of the table.

Michael Essien put the Blues in front inside two minutes with a free header.

And the second goal arrived in bizarre fashion as Matthew Upson's clearance struck Salomon Kalou's heel and ballooned into the net.

Essien rose above Tal Ben Haim to add a late third, before Scott Parker lobbed Petr Cech from the edge of the box.

West Ham's defeat, which looked inevitable from the moment Essien opened the scoring, leaves the east Londoners without a point in their first four Premier League games.

And if it seems too early to start talking about a crisis at Upton Park, manager Avram Grant desperately needs to find a formula which maximises the potential of a side containing a number of players of genuine quality. Arsenal celebrated their 1000th goal of Arsene Wenger's managerial reign with a confident win against 10-man Bolton.

Laurent Koscielny put Arsenal in front in the 24th minute but the Frenchman's defensive error allowed Johan Elmander to level a minute before half-time.

But Arsenal turned on the style as Maroune Chamakh headed in the first of three second-half goals from six yards.

Defender Gary Cahill was sent off for a dangerous tackle before Alex Song and Carlos Vela completed the rout.

Even without injured duo Theo Walcott and Robin van Persie, Wenger's side had sufficient depth and attacking options to create numerous goal-scoring opportunities for their third victory of the season as well as inflicting Bolton's first defeat of the campaign.

A consistent performance for £6m signing Salvatore Squillaci on his debut will give Wenger plenty of encouragement with Thomas Vermaelen

unavailable because of an Achilles tendon injury.

However, furious Trotters boss Owen Coyle confronted referee Stuart Attwell at the final whistle in protest at the straight red card shown to central defender Cahill in the 64th minute for a clumsy challenge on Chamakh.

SPAIN

Star-studded champions Barcelona slumped to an embarrassing 2-0 home defeat at the hands of minnows Hercules on Saturday while Jose Mourinho savoured his first win in charge of Real Madrid.

Paraguayan forward Nelson Haedo Valdez, signed from Borussia Dortmund, had a day to treasure scoring his first Hercules goal on 26 minutes and then another on 58 minutes as Barcelona crashed to a shock defeat against a side who have returned to the top flight after a 13-year absence.

Barcelona went the whole season unbeaten at home in the last campaign and this was their first home defeat in the league since May 23, 2009 when they lost to Osasuna having already won the title.

Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola, who must pick his side up for Tuesday's Champions League opener against Panathinaikos at Camp Nou, refused to make excuses for the Hercules setback.

"There have always been international breaks and we didn't fail to win because of that," said Guardiola.

"I see how the players work every day and I don't have any doubts about this team."

Guardiola handed a league debut to Argentina Javier Mascherano, his 22-million-euro signing from Liverpool, and rested Spanish World Cup winners Xavi, Sergi Busquets and Pedro Rodriguez.

EPL

	P	GD	Pts
1 Chelsea	4	16	12
2 Arsenal	4	10	10
3 Man Utd	4	6	8
4 Blackpool	4	0	7
5 Fulham	4	1	6
6 Aston Villa	3	-2	6
7 Man City	4	2	5
8 Birmingham	3	1	5
9 Wolves	4	0	5
10 Sunderland	4	0	5
11 Tottenham	4	0	5
12 Bolton	4	-1	5
13 Newcastle	4	1	4
14 Blackburn	4	-1	4
15 Liverpool	3	-2	4
16 West Brom	4	-6	4
17 Wigan	4	-9	4
18 Everton	4	-2	2
19 Stoke	3	-4	0
20 West Ham	4	-10	0

Arsenal 4-1 Bolton
Everton 3-3 Man Utd
Fulham 2-1 Wolves
Man City 1-1 Blackburn
Newcastle 0-2 Blackpool
West Brom 1-1 Tottenham
West Ham 1-3 Chelsea
Wigan 1-1 Sunderland

Bundesliga

	P	GD	Pts
1 TSG Hoffenheim	3	6	9
2 Hamburg	3	3	7
3 Hannover 96	3	2	7
4 FC Kaiserslautern	2	4	6
5 Mainz	2	3	6
6 B Dortmund	3	2	6
7 SC Freiburg	3	0	6
8 B M'gladbach	3	-1	4
9 B Leverkusen	3	-1	4
10 Werder Bremen	3	-1	4
11 Bayern Munich	3	-1	4
12 E Frankfurt	3	1	3
13 St Pauli	2	1	3
14 Nuremberg	3	-1	2
15 Wolfsburg	3	-4	0
16 Cologne	2	-4	0
17 Schalke 04	3	-4	0
18 VfB Stuttgart	3	-5	0

B Munich 0-0 Werder Bremen
B Dortmund 2-0 Wolfsburg
B M'glad 0-4 Eintracht Frankfurt
Hamburg 1-1 Nuremberg
Hannover 96 2-2 B Leverkusen
SC Freiburg 2-1 VfB Stuttgart
TSG Hoffenheim 2-0 Schalke 04

Serie A

	P	GD	Pts
1 Cagliari	2	4	4
2 Cesena	2	2	4
3 Inter Milan	2	1	4
4 AC Milan	2	2	3
5 Parma	1	2	3
6 Sampdoria	1	2	3
7 Chievo	1	1	3
8 Bari	1	1	3
9 Genoa	1	1	3
10 Fiorentina	1	0	1
11 Napoli	1	0	1
12 Bologna	1	0	1
13 Palermo	1	0	1
14 Roma	2	-4	1
15 Catania	1	-1	0
16 Juventus	1	-1	0
17 Udinese	2	-2	0
18 Brescia	1	-2	0
19 Lazio	1	-2	0
20 Lecce	1	-4	0

Cagliari 5-1 Roma
Cesena 2-0 AC Milan
Inter Milan 2-1 Udinese

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MEXICO

It has been a case of same-old, same-old in the Mexican Apertura championship. Humberto Suazo scored the winning goal just after half time as Monterrey beat UANL Tigres in the northeast derby match, while Santos suffered a surprise 5-2 loss against Querétaro.

Suazo scored the decisive goal for Monterrey against Tigres after just 30 seconds of the second half to take his personal tally to seven goals from seven games since returning from a loan spell at Spanish side Real Zaragoza last season.

The Chilean striker received a pass from Osvaldo Martinez and cut inside his marker before unleashing a half volley from the edge of the box that beat Cirilo Saucedo in the Tigres goal. Tigres has eight points from seven matches played so far.

Earlier Saturday, Uruguayan striker Sergio Blanco scored three goals as Querétaro secured a surprise win over early pace-setter Santos. Christian Benitez scored his eighth goal of the tournament to give Santos the lead in the fourth minute, but Joaquin Beltran pulled Querétaro level after goalkeeper Oswaldo Sanchez failed to deal with a corner in the 27th.

As the first half closed, Blanco put Querétaro in front with a left-footed shot past substitute goalkeeper Miguel Becerra, who had replaced the injured Sanchez. Blanco made the score 3-1 with a close-range finish in the 69th, before defender Eder Borelli scored an own goal from Juan Pablo Rodriguez's cross to pull Santos back to 3-2 two minutes later.

Blanco completed his hat-trick with a goal from Hector Altamirano's cross in the 87th minute and the provider then turned goalscorer to complete the victory with a strike from long distance in the closing stages. In Chiapas, Carlos Ochoa scored twice to give mid-table Jaguars a home win over Puebla, which started the day in fourth position on the table.



ARGENTINA

Interim Argentina coach Sergio Batista declared himself delighted with the performance of the Albiceleste in the 4-1 win over Spain in Buenos Aires. "[I am] enjoying the win, they beat the world champions who arrived with all their players. I am happy with how the team worked together, everything came out perfectly," a beaming 'El Checho' told TyC Sports in Wednesday's interview.

"We should not underestimate what we



7 goals in 7 games for Chilean Humberto Suazo so far keeps him again in hot form.

did yesterday. If Spain had put in a full team we would have beat them in the same way."

The Albiceleste put in one of the most complete performances seen from an Argentina side in recent years, with an impressive fluidity and cohesion present in the vast majority of the play. Batista agreed that yesterday afternoon's show was exactly what he wanted to see from his players.

At club level, Enzo Perez and Gabriel Mercado scored second-half goals to give Estudiantes a 2-0 home win over Racing Club on Saturday and into the lead of the Argentine Apertura tournament with a game in hand. Unbeaten Estudiantes has 13 points from five games, ahead of Velez Sarsfield on goal difference. Velez shared a 0-0 draw earlier in the day with third-placed San Lorenzo. Elsewhere on Saturday, Banfield twice came from behind to draw 2-2 at Huracan, while Godoy Cruz was a comfortable 4-1 winner at Lanús.

Without a doubt however, the best match was where Estudiantes had the better of a tight first half against Racing Club, with Carlos Auzqui's shot saved at point blank range by goalkeeper Jorge De Olivera in the 35th minute. De Olivera tipped a dipping drive from the edge of the box by Rodrigo Brana over the bar in the 39th minute and Juan Pereyra also went close with a header over the bar from a corner in the 40th as Estudiantes continued to press. Racing's best chances

were limited to a back-post header from Pablo Luguercio in the 30th and a long range shot that went wide from Jose Luis Fernandez immediately after.

Racing defender Lucas Avelaño forced the ball over the line in the 32nd minute but the goal was disallowed for offside. It took just 28 seconds of the second half for Estudiantes to take the lead. Mercado whipped a cross into the box from the right for Pérez to side-foot across De Olivera and inside the far post. Mercado scored the second goal himself with a shot powered past De Olivera's dive from inside the box in the 56th minute. Estudiantes captain Juan Sebastian Veron almost scored a third with a swerving free kick tipped over the bar in the 62nd minute, but his side had already done enough to finish the day atop the standings.



URUGUAY

News coming in straight from press agencies are that defender Diego Rodriguez of Uruguayan side Nacional died on Saturday aged 22 after suffering head injuries in a car crash. The Uruguayan Football Association (AUF) suspended soccer matches at all levels this weekend.

"The fixtures of both professional football and juniors has been suspended," AUF president Sebastian Bauzá told Reuters. Nacional, one of Uruguay's two bigs clubs with champions Penarol, had

already postponed Sunday's league match against Bella Vista so they could support Rodriguez's family.

Rodriguez suffered a fractured skull, brain damage, punctured liver, broken ribs and other injuries in the crash with a truck on Montevideo's seafront boulevard on Thursday. The player's father, Juan Jacinto Rodriguez, arrived in Montevideo on Friday from the United Arab Emirates where he works as an assistant to former Uruguay coach Jorge Fossati at al-Shabab.

Rodriguez, a left back who emerged from the Nacional junior ranks, made his first team debut in February 2009. He had started all three of Nacional's matches so far this season in the Apertura championship.

In another more uplifting report, coach Oscar Tabárez has signed a new long-term contract to remain in charge of the South American side until 2014. There had been doubts over the coach's willingness to continue at the helm of the outfit he guided to the semi-finals of the World Cup this summer, with nearly two months of negotiations needed to finally secure his signature. Sebastian Bauza, president of the Uruguayan FA, announced the completion of the deal on Friday evening local time to a press conference.



BRAZIL

Nothing has been published in the media regarding Mel-

bourne Heart approaching Ronaldo over a possible stint. Contrary to being in its "embryonic stages at the moment," the 33-year-old striker, who was part of two World Cup winning teams and now plays for Corinthians in Brazil, would earn \$92,660 per match if the deal materialised, the report said.

Perhaps this figure isn't published to signal that Ronaldo's past is still very much present, despite an evident drop of form and his dramatic weight issues. Locals know of course that he is not only winding up his career but "seeking options" to do with life after football. He will without a doubt want to stay in his home country.

Ronaldo would much more be appropriately focused in getting himself on the score sheet or contributing to his Corinthians' sides late form as the Sao Paulo lost surprisingly. He was rested as both Fluminense and Corinthians went down to surprise defeats last Saturday ahead of their Brazilian championship top-of-the-table clash in Rio de Janeiro on the weekend.

Leaders Fluminense lost 2-1 away to 10-man Atletico Goianiense but are still three points ahead of Corinthians, who suffered their first home defeat of the season, 1-0 to Gremio. In a match they had been expected to win against a team in the relegation zone, Flu went ahead after 23 minutes when Washington finished a move involving playmakers Deco and Argentine Dario Conca.

Seven minutes later, however, William shook off his marker to equalise and Flu went on to hit the bar twice before half-time. Things looked to become easier for Flu when the home side's defender Gilson was sent off for a foul on Carlinhos, his second booking, but substitute Juninho scrambled in a winner in stoppage time.

Corinthians, resting Roberto Carlos as well for Wednesday, went down to a superb goal from their former midfielder Douglas, who nutmegged his marker and shot from outside the box in the 34th minute.

Gremio almost gave away their lead 13 minutes into the second half when Vilson brought down midfielder Bruno Cesar, conceding a penalty and being sent off. Brazil international goalkeeper Victor, however, saved the spot kick from veteran striker Iarley, who had another good chances minutes later saved on the line by defender Rafael Marques. Corinthians are banking on Ronaldo, back two weeks ago from a three-month injury layoff, for a victory over Fluminense that would put them level on points with a game in hand.

Balkan Scene with Alex Milic



Serbia

In Euro 2012 Qualifying the National Team managed to score a late equaliser against Slovenia in a 1:1 draw at home.

Milivoje Novakovic put the Slovenes one up after an hour of play. With only minutes remaining an excellent cross by Antonio Rukavina into the box was met by Nikola Zigic whose powerful header levelled the match and split the points. It was a poor performance by an unsettled Serbia side which has yet to recover from the downfall of the World Cup in South Africa. Serbia has four points from two games.

Partizan Belgrade put three past Rad Belgrade in the Serbian SuperLiga. Cameroonian Striker Piere Boya made an excellent return to his former club by scoring two second half goals, midfielder Radosav Petrovic scored the other. Partizan takes on Ukrainian Champions Shakhtar Donetsk in Matchday one of the UEFA Champions League Group Stages. This will be the clubs first match in the tournament in almost seven years.

Vojvodina continued its bright start to the new season with a 2:0 away win against relegation battlers Cukaricki. Umaru and opened the scoring early on while Ste-



Zigic

vanovic confirmed the three points in added time. Bubalo and Batiyoya gave Indjija the three points at home to Jagodina while Spartak remains third following a 1:0 win away to Metalac. Javor and Smederevo played out a goalless draw as did Sloboda and Borac.

In the English Premier League Nemanja Vidic scored one of Manchester United's three goals in the six goal thriller against Everton. The Serbia fullback is now the captain of the 'Red Devils' and is in excellent form this season.



Croatia

The National side played out a disappointing goalless draw against Greece in round two of Euro 2012 qualifying. Slaven Bilic's men failed to make much as did their opponents Greece. Media in Croatia are calling for Bilic's resignation with eight matches remaining.

Hajduk Split and Dinamo Zagreb drew 1:1 in the Croatian Eternal Derby. Sammir gave Dinamo the lead just before halftime which sparked the home side to come into

SERBIA

	P	GD	Pts
1. Partizan	4	9:1	12
2. Vojvodina	4	6:0	10
3. Spartak	4	4:1	8
4. Sloboda Sevojno	4	3:1	8
5. Borac	4	3:1	8
6. Crvena zvezda	3	3:1	7
7. Indija	4	6:4	6
8. Rad	4	4:3	5
9. Jagodina	4	2:4	4
10. Smederevo	4	1:2	3
11. OFK Beograd	3	1:3	3
12. Javor	4	1:3	3
13. BSK	3	2:4	2
14. Metalac	4	0:3	1
15. Hajduk	3	2:7	0
16. Čukarički	4	0:9	0

the second half playing aggressive football and were rewarded by a Sharbani goal on the stroke of the hour mark. Both sides had chances to find the winner but at the end, both teams will be satisfied with the outcome.

It's tight at the top of the league with Rijeka the frontrunners after seven rounds despite losing its first game of the season to Cibalia 4:1. The most impressive score line was Split's 2:0 win away to Zagreb. Two Nino

CROATIA

	P	Pts
1 HNK Rijeka	7	16
2 HNK Hajduk Split	7	15
3 NK Dinamo Zagreb	7	14
4 RNK Split	7	13
5 NK Zagreb	7	13
6 NK Slaven	7	12
7 HNK Cibalia	7	11
8 NK Varaždin	7	11
9 NK Lokomotiva	7	11
10 NK Osijek	7	10
11 NK Karlovac	7	9
12 NK Zadar	7	7
13 NK Inter Zaprešić	7	6
14 HNK Šibenik	7	3
15 NK Istra	7	2
16 NK Zagreb	7	2

Bule goals gave Nk Lokomotiva the three points against Zadar in a five goal thriller. Slaven Belupo overcame Varteks with a lone goal to Vojnovic. Inter Zapresic defeated Istra away 1:0. Osijek put three past Sibenik to get three new points while Karlovac won three valuable points against fellow strugglers Hrvatski Dragovoljac. There's only six points separating league leaders Rijeka and tenth placed NK Osijek.

It's Gold! Gold! Gold! for Fernando and Sarah

South Melbourne's Fernando De Moraes and Bendigo Viper's Sarah Richardson have won the Alanic Victorian Premier League and Women's Premier League Gold Medals.

De Moraes' and Richardson's awards concluded a fantastic night at Etihad Stadium's Victory Room, which celebrated Victorian football's individual and team achievements in 2010.

A stunned Sarah Richardson was overwhelmed upon accepting her award, and thanked her team mates for a fantastic season with the Bendigo Vipers in the Women's Premier League.

Women's Premier League Gold Medal votes:

1. Sarah Richardson - Bendigo Vipers – 21 votes

2. *Rita Mankowska - Heidelberg United – 17 votes
3. Tal Karp - Box Hill Inter – 16 votes
4. Emma Runnalls - S'ham – 16 votes
5. Gulcan Koca – Ashburton – 14 votes
6. Stephanie Catley - S'ham – 14 votes
7. Lucrece Fleur Laverdure - South Melb – 13 votes
8. Amy Jackson - Altona City – 11 votes
9. Louisa Bisby - Box Hill Inter – 11 votes
10. Rachel Lamb - Ashburton - 11 votes
11. Melanie Camilleri -Heidelberg United – 11 votes

**Ineligible due to suspension*

Fernando De Moraes capped off a fantastic year of football, following up his

South Melbourne FC Player of the Year Award the previous Thursday night with Alanic VPL Gold Medalon Monday night. The Brazilian scored 13 goals this season to finish second behind Northcote City's Trent Rixon for the Top Goal Scorer Award. He polled 19 votes to win the award ahead of Heidelberg's Yanni Galanos and Melbourne Knights' Kevin Townson.

Alanic VPL Gold Medal votes:

1. Fernando De Moraes – South Melbourne FC - 19 votes
2. *Yanni Galanos - Heidelberg United – 18 votes
3. *Kevin Townson, - Melb Knights – 18 votes
4. *Richard Cardozo - Hume City – 15 votes
5. Mathew Theodore - Altona Magic –

15 votes

6. *Jeffrey Fleming - Green Gully Cavaliers – 14 votes
7. Adrian Zahra - Melbourne Knights – 14 votes
8. *Craig Elvin - Heidelberg United – 14 votes
9. *Trent Rixon - Northcote City – 14 votes
10. Jerry Karpeh - Oakleigh Cannons 13 votes
11. *Fidell Richards - Sunshine George Cross – 13 votes

**Ineligible due to suspension*

Recently retired Victorian football champion, Danny Tiatto, was the special guest on the night, speaking about his amazing professional football career that has spanned nearly 20 years.

One of the highlights of the night was the introduction of the Football Federation Victoria Hall of Fame. Harry Dockerty, Betty Hoar and Jimmy Rooney were the first inductees into the Hall of Fame.

Having integrated into Football Federation Victoria (FFV) recently, the Geelong, Bendigo and Sunraysia Life Members were formally inducted as FFV Life Members.

All the Winners:

Volunteer of the Year
Ronald Sinclair

Female Coach of the Year
Michelle Williamson (Melton SC)

Male Coach of the Year
Adam Grinholz (Brunswick Zebras FC)

Best News Article
Craig McKenzie - Goal! Weekly

Les Shorrock Best Football Image
Anita Milas - Goal! Weekly

Life Member Inductee
Vasko Stojcevski

Hall of Fame Inductee
Harry Dockerty

Hall of Fame Inductee
Betty Hoar

Hall of Fame Inductee
Jimmy Rooney

Hoar Melvin Best Junior Female
Julia Sardo (National Training Centre)

Jones Martin Best Youth Female
Jackie Vogt (National Training Centre)

Jane Oakley Best NTC Player
Stephanie Catley (Sandringham)

Weinstein Award Best Junior Male
Luke O'Dea (National Training Centre)

Referee Development Award
Jonathan Barreiro

Referee of the Year
Shaun Evans

Bill Fleming Media Award
Kevin Townson (Melbourne Knights)

Under 21 Player of the Year
Adrian Zahra (Melbourne Knights)

Women's Goal Keeper of the Year
Peta Horman (Sandringham)

Alanic Victorian Premier League Goal Keeper of the Year
Peter Zois (South Melbourne)

Women's Premier League Top Goal Scorer
Melanie Camilleri (Heidelberg United)

Alanic Victorian Premier League Top Goal Scorer
Trent Rixon (Northcote City)

Women's Premier League Coach of the Year
Paul Kilpatrick (Altona City)

Alanic Victorian Premier League Coach of the Year
Michael Chatzitirifonos (Richmond Eagles)

Women's Premier League Gold Medal Winner
Sarah Richardson (Bendigo Vipers)

Alanic Victorian Premier League Gold Medal Winner
Fernando De Moraes (South Melb)



Coach of the year Mike Chatzitirifonas with his assistant coach Huss Skenderovic.



Opa! Opa! The South Melbourne table with Gold Medalist Fernando De Moraes.



Media Frenzy: Anita Milas, Les Shorrock, Costa Koutropoulos, Eileen Shorrock and Roy Hay.



Golden Boot winner, Trent Rixon of Northcote City.



Ref's World: Nick Carlich, Shaun Evans, Johnny Bareiro and Hary Milas.



The Northcote City table lead by George Campbell, on the far left.

WPL GOLD MEDAL WINNER 2010

SARAH RICHARDSON

BENDIGO VIPERS WFC



PHOTO: PETER PSARRIOS

1. Sarah Richardson - Bendigo Vipers - 21 votes
2. *Rita Mankowska - Heidelberg United - 17 votes
3. Tal Karp - Box Hill Inter - 16 votes
4. Emma Runnalls - Sandringham - 16 votes
5. Gulcan Koca - Ashburton - 14 votes
6. Stephanie Catley - Sandringham - 14 votes
7. Lucrece Fleur Laverdure - South Melb - 13 votes
8. Amy Jackson - Altona City - 11 votes
9. Louisa Bisby - Box Hill Inter - 11 votes
10. Rachel Lamb - Ashburton - 11 votes
11. Melanie Camilleri - Heidelberg United - 11 votes

*Ineligible due to suspension

VPL GOLD MEDAL WINNER 2010

FERNANDO DE MORAES

SOUTH MELBOURNE FC



PHOTO: PETER PSARROS

1. Fernando De Moraes - South Melbourne FC - 19 votes
2. *Yanni Galanos - Heidelberg United - 18 votes
3. *Kevin Townson, - Melbourne Knights - 18 votes
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5. Mathew Theodore - Altona Magic - 15 votes
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GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS



CHAMPIONS 2010

ALANIC VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE





Congratulations to Goal! Weekly's Craig MacKenzie and Anita Milas for scooping the FFV's Gold Medal Night 2010 Media Awards.



Craig MacKenzie

Best News Article Award



Anita Milas

Les Shorrock
Best Football Image Award

Next stop the Walkley's...

BLUE EAGLES TO CHALLENGE ADELAIDE CITY

By Nat Adamopoulos

Adelaide Blue Eagles have won the right to contest Adelaide City in the 2010 FFSA Devine Homes Grand Final with a tough 2-1 victory in extra time against MetroStars at TK Shutter Reserve with goals coming from striker Saranti Parissos and youngster Mensur Delkic.

Coach Zoran Karadzic had his work cut out for him with an injury riddled side, three of his best Mitch Nicholson, Adam Vizzari and Damian De Mella out for the match. The news during the week of De Mella out with a season ending injury was a huge blow and couldn't have come at a worse time as the defender has been instrumental in the rise up of the Azurri this season. Coming into the side in his place was Lino Sattin playing from the bench for the whole season, but the traditional deep playing defender stood up and rose to the occasion playing out the full game plus extra time. The Eagles also welcomed back central defender Dean Kenrick, still nursing an ankle injury but taking his place in the side to bolster the defence.

The game opened up almost identically to the Federation Cup contested only a few weeks earlier with vitality and verve, both sides playing at a fast pace to get the first score on the board. Eagles defender Gianluca Lagati felt the intensity of the match in the 4th minute when he was on the wrong end of a tackle from Steven Grelli, an unintentional elbow to the nose forcing the defender off for treatment. Two minutes later the first real sniff at goal by Metrostars after a great ball from Michael Matricciani found Michael Pirone perfectly positioned for a shot at goal, his shot being parried out by Eagles keeper Gino De Lucia but into



Metro v Abe Delkic...young gun Mensur Delkic at the front of the pack after scoring the match winner.

PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

the path of striker Scott Tunbridge who shot into the side netting. Lagati took his place back on the pitch his nose looking worse for wear and being called upon to work hard as MetroStars put his side under the pump looking well organized and creating chances. There was goalmouth action a plenty for the Eagles defence, with four corners awarded against them within the first thirteen minutes and Tunbridge coming down in the box, Lagati and Haris Vukic dangerously close to having a penalty awarded against one of them. With the Eagles finding it difficult to get the ball out of defence, MetroStars were extremely unlucky after Pirone volleyed his shot hitting the cross bar in the 17th

minute, the hit man showing obvious disappointment with his miss. It looked like it was all just a matter of time that the homeside would put one in the back of the net, the Eagles resorting to gang-tackling at one stage to stop the waves of advancement, Fortunato Filletti receiving a yellow card for his tripping offence against Jackson Groves. Majority of play was with MetroStars for the first half, but the momentum did swing slightly to the Blue Eagles in the latter part of the half Parissos, Filletti and Chad Bugeja all being presented with opportunities but Stars keeper Dan Godley earning his keep between the sticks. Pirone had another golden opportunity in the 43rd minute receiving a great ball in right on the edge of the box, De Lucia mopping up after the forward hesitated to shoot. Just before the half time whistle teammates Parissos and Bugeja locked heads, literally, the frustration of the MetroStars dominance becoming evident as they continued their discussions as they walked off for the half time break.

With a change for the Blue Eagles young defender Vukic being substituted off for strong Chris Annicchiarico, the second half saw a turnaround with more purpose particularly from the Blue Eagles as they came into the match putting pressure on the home-side. The visitors were now looking dangerous with Kounavelis and Parissos again in amongst the action, Metrostars now making unforced errors to contain them. Parissos had a great opportunity to score ten minutes into the resumption of play, unfortunately losing his balance and shooting skyward over the cross bar. He was rewarded in the 64th minute after some lovely one-two play between Kym Harris and Bugeja passing off to the striker who made no mistake whipping the ball past the oncoming keeper Godley. The play favoured the Eagles, with another change being made by Karadzic, Crettenden coming off for young gun Nicholas Bucco who has had a stellar season keeping the momentum

up and at one stage looking like they would score a second in quick succession, the strength of Metro captain Ivan Karlovic and key defender Lee Robertson being called upon. As Metro coach David Terminello changed Tim Sarris with Adam Van Dommelle to solidify his defence the Blue Eagles continued to push the ball forward but unable to find the back of the net. A 79th minute change by both coaches, Daniel Mettyear coming on for Michael Pirone of MetroStars with what could be his last ever game played and Blue Eagles Koradzic making a tactical change bringing Kym Harris off for Mensur Delkic. The dynamics of the game changed and MetroStars equalized from a great build up and a beautifully weighted ball from Karlovic into the box that saw Matricciani take side on, turn and belt in on his second touch beating Eagles keeper De Lucia who could do absolutely nothing about it. With final changes being made Tunbridge being subbed for Perri Mitris the MetroStars goal took the game to extra time with the drama yet to unfold.

Early in extra time Van Dommelle put in a wreckless tackle against Filletti which saw him receive his second yellow and subsequent red taking no further part in the game leaving terminello with ten men only. Bucco was putting balls forward looking for Parissos or Bugeja neither of which could take advantage of the chances given. Eagles defender Kenrick received a knock on his injured ankle in the opening stages of extra time and was now running on one peg, but with all three substitutions being made eventually having to ask to leave the pitch as he was hobbling so bad he could hardly stand on the foot, taking the player count to level pegging. The final nail in the coffin eventually came in the 104th minute from some hard work through Bucco getting through several players left field passing to Sattin who threaded the ball into the box where the young sub Delkic put away a lovely goal to take the score-



Metro v ABE Matricc...Blue Eagles Gianluca Lagati tagging MetroStars danger man Michael Matricciani PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

SA FINALS RESULTS

DEVINE HOMES FINAL SERIES

Week 3 Finals – Preliminary Finals - Results

DEVINE HOMES SUPER LEAGUE

MetroStars 1 (M.Matricciani)
Adelaide Blue Eagles 2 (Sa.Parissos, M.Delkic)
(HT 0-0) (FT 1-1) (AET 1-2)
Best – MetroStars (J.Groves, M.Matricciani, L.Robertson)
Blue Eagles (G.Lagati, F.Fillett, Sa.Parissos)

DEVINE HOMES PREMIER LEAGUE

Croydon 1 (K.Kosznik)
Adelaide Comets 0
(HT 0-0)
Best – Croydon (C.D'Alfonso, L.Klimek, K.Kosznik) Comets (M.Hiern, D.Makridis, F.Marafioti)

DEVINE HOMES STATE LEAGUE

Noarlunga United 3 (K.Maclean, K.Madaley, S.Reed)
Seaford 1 (F.Machichi)
(HT 2-1)
Best – Noarlunga (K.Maclean, S.Reed, K.Madaley) Seaford (F.Slattery, A.Anderson, F.Machochi)

DEVINE HOMES SUPER LEAGUE RESERVES

SA Sports Institute 2 (A.Welsh, P.Radice)
Adelaide Blue Eagles 1 (S.Viola)
(HT 1-0)
Best – SASI (A.Welsh, J.Elsey, B.Warland)
Blue Eagles (I.Kamau, D.Zamparelli, S.Kalinovic)

DEVINE HOMES PREMIER LEAGUE RESERVES

Modbury 2 (A.Grishaj 2)
Pirates 2 (R.Crampton, M.Brentson)
(HT 1-1) (FT 2-2) (AET 2-2)
Pirates won 5-4 on penalties
Best – Modbury (Z.Walsh, A.Rocca, L.Crook)
Pirates (J.Perry, S.Rohani, B.Chumm)

DEVINE HOMES STATE LEAGUE RESERVES

Noarlunga United 4 (I.Still, T.Brook, S.Nelson, R.Mace)
Toros 0 (HT 2-0)
Best – Noarlunga (S.Nelson, T.Brook, R.Mace)
Toros (D.Cazzetta, D.Ongarato, N.Moustrides)

DEVINE HOMES SUPER LEAGUE UNDER 19

Adelaide City 3 (A.Costa, J.Forrester, S.Virba-Day)
Western Strikers 1 (J.Harding)
(HT 1-0)
Best – Adel City (A.Costa, J.Forrester, M.Caroscio) Strikers (J.Poll, A.Burneski, M.Camozzato)

DEVINE HOMES PREMIER LEAGUE UNDER 19

West Adelaide 1 (C.Vounasis)
Salisbury United 3 (T.Kamara)
(HT 0-1)
Best – West Adel (J.Kolesnikowicz, I.Jaric, A.Trimboli)
Salisbury (T.Kamara, J.Mottram, J.McCormack)

DEVINE HOMES STATE LEAGUE UNDER 19

Noarlunga United 2 (T.Nuttall, L.Tucker)
Northern Demons 4 (J.Capurso 2, N.Introna, D.Champion)
(HT 1-1)
Best – Noarlunga (D.Sinclair, T.Nuttall, J.Gallas)
Demons (J.Capurso, M.Spadavecchia, O.Burt)

board to 2-1. Matricciani and Mitris both had chances to take the game to penalties for MetroStars, never giving up still looking for the equalizer but to no avail. Kounavelis should have put the game to bed with three minutes to go unfortunately putting the ball wide instead of into goal. A last ditch effort by Dave Menechella with a shot that gave the Blue Eagles defence and keeper trouble, just going over the cross bar. As referee Dave Alberton blew the final whistle the Blue Eagles faithful threw their arms up in celebration, realizing that now that could do the Federation Cup and Championship double something they have not done since 1995. Hindmarsh Stadium will be hosting the 2010 FFSA between Adelaide City and Adelaide Blue Eagles on Saturday 18th September, a day that will see all three of the men's leagues Grand Finals being played.



It's a Belconnen v Canberra FC Grand Final!

By Russ Gibbs

Belconnen United will meet Canberra FC in the 2010 Gatorade Premier League Grand Final after narrowly edging out Cooma Tigers 2-1 after extra-time at Deakin Stadium. A goal two minutes into the extra half-hour from Cameron Reinhart eventually settled matters in favour of the Blue Devils but it was a close run thing with Cooma giving their all but ultimately falling just short.

It was Belconnen who fired the first warning shot of the afternoon when influential midfielder Dustin Wells drilled a long-range effort towards goal that Cooma goalkeeper Francis Bangweni had to be alert to, positioning himself well to keep out the medium-range shot. At the other end the Tigers rarely tested the Blue Devils defence with Matt Valeri and company largely nullifying the threat of Goran Josifovski, breaking from midfield, and Jair Wilk.

Gatorade Premier League top scorer Danny Macor was inconspicuous in the first-half being superbly marshalled by Cristobal Soza with the Tigers stopper shackling the Belconnen hit-man and not allowing the ace-predator a moments space to work his indisputable magic whilst partner-in-crime Tai Smith was also kept quiet by rigorous marking.

The Tigers almost took the lead before half-time when centre-forward Serdan Bircan met a deep cross with a powerful downward header that forced Blue Devils goalkeeper Rohan Shepherd into a smart save low on his left hand post, the 'keeper doing well to get down and push the ball around the post for a corner. That was as close as either team got before the break with the stalemate in place and the teams deadlocked at 0-0 heading into half-time after Bircan's effort.

Belconnen took the lead barely two minutes after the restart with a cleverly conceived goal that owed much to the vision and precision passing of Zac Maybury. The youngster, who earlier had been cautioned for a poor challenge on the half-way line which means that he'll miss the Grand Final through suspension, set off on a mazy dribble into Tigers territory. Advancing on the Cooma penalty area Maybury slid a perfectly weighted pass in between the Tigers full-back and centre-back into the path of David Kemp who showed admirable composure to slip his shot past Bangweni in the Cooma goal to give the Blue Devils a 1-0 lead.

Having got in front so early in the second stanza, the manner in which Cooma equalised, forcing their way back into the contest, would have been galling to Belconnen Head Coach Scott Conlon. A free-kick awarded thirty metres from goal for a crude challenge on the back of Jai Wilk presented the Tigers with an ideal chance to get the ball into the danger zone. What no-one was prepared for was for Marcial Munoz to swing in a kick of devastating quality that was asking to be put in the net. Incredibly every player, including Belconnen goalkeeper Shepherd who was perhaps culpable, misjudged the flight and watched as the ball flashed into the net for an unlikely leveller.

Belconnen responded to the Cooma goal by dominating possession for the next twenty minutes without really threatening a breakthrough while at the other end Shepherd made a great block to deny a Tony Aleksovski blockbuster from twenty-five metres and Matt Valeri heroically stopped a goal bound effort from Bircan after Shepherd spilled Jai Wilk's low cross with subsequent penalty claims waved away by the



ACT Preliminary Final action between Cooma Tigers (stripes) and Belconnen. PHOTO: PAUL LAU

match officials.

It didn't take Belconnen long to regain the initiative in extra-time when Cameron Reinhart popped up on the far post to steer a low cross into the bottom corner past the despairing Bangweni who appeared to get a glove on the shot but could not prevent the ball from entering the net. Buoyed by that success the Blue Devils poured forward and Bangweni was called into action making a double-save from Dustin Wells that looked anything but confident.

Cooma threw everything at Belconnen in an attempt to force their way back into the contest but Shepherd remained largely untroubled throughout the extra half-hour with only a long-range drive from Wilk causing any concern and, despite their best efforts and a brave resistance, Cooma's return to the Premier League ended with gallant defeat.

FOXES AND WODEN INTO GRAND FINAL DECIDER

The Tradies Women's Premier League Semi-Finals

Belwest Foxes will face Woden Valley in the Grand Final of The Tradies Women's Premier League after both teams recorded identical 4-1 semi-final victories at Kaleen Enclosed on Sunday afternoon. The match, a repeat of the 2010 Project Coordination Federation Cup Final that the Foxes won 5-1, will be held on Sunday 19th September at Hawker Football Centre with a 3pm kick off.

Belwest Foxes 4 (Elizabeth Pearson 6', own goal 24', Hayley Buckingham 41', Snezh Veljanovska 54') Weston Creek 1 (Aleisha Tupper 62')

Belwest Foxes defeated Weston Creek for the fourth time this season, scoring four goals for the fourth time as well, and in the process booked a place in The Tradies Women's Premier League Grand Final that had looked likely all season. It didn't take long for the Foxes to assert their superiority taking the lead with a goal inside six minutes from Elizabeth Pearson. Having got in front the Foxes upped the ante and were rewarded with a second goal after 24 minutes, an unfortunate own goal, increasing the Belwest lead. When defender Hayley Buckingham advanced forward to claim the Foxes third goal of the match in the 41st minute the writing appeared on the wall for Weston Creek who had lost all three previous encounters with the Foxes this season, all by the same 0-4 score line. And Belwest made it four again in the 54th minute when Canberra United player Snezh Veljanovska struck for the eleventh time this term to all but seal the Grand Final spot. To their eternal credit Weston Creek refused to go down without a fight and were duly granted a reward in the 62nd minute when Aleisha Tupper scored her ninth goal of the season to reduce the gap to 4-1. It was all to no avail though as Belwest easily held out for the victory and a chance to claim the trophy that eluded them last season when Weston deservedly won the championship with a solitary goal. With fierce rivals Woden Valley waiting for them in the final the Foxes will be keen to complete a treble of Federation Cup, League Championship and Grand Final.

Woden Valley 4 (Emma Thornton, Catherine Brown, Jen Walsh, Ashleigh Palombi) Belconnen United 1 (Lauren Keir) Two goals in the first five minute of the

match at Kaleen Enclosed gave Woden Valley the perfect start to their semi-final match with Belconnen United in The Tradies Women's Premier League and, from that position, they didn't look back recording an ominously impressive 4-1 victory over an in-form Belconnen United. Emma Thornton gave Woden the dream beginning with the opening goal early on and shortly after, before five minutes had even elapsed, the lead was doubled when Catherine Brown made it 2-0. A further goal, scored by Jen Walsh, before the half-time break seemingly put the contest to bed before it had even begun as Antoni Jagarinc, who had played in and lost his own State League Division Three Grand Final the day before, and his troops were given the proverbial mountain to climb. It got worse before it began to get better in the second half when Woden striker Ashleigh Palombi rounded off a slick team move to notch her 26th goal of a productive campaign and book a place in the big day for Woden Valley. The sight of influential midfielder Grace Field, who was 2009 ACT Player of the Year, warming up was a major bonus for Ed Hollis and the Valley support with the silky skilled youngster in with a chance of making an appearance in the Final against Belwest Foxes on Sunday. Belconnen, who had star striker Caitlin Munoz backing up from a morning friendly for the Matildas against ACTAS and looking subsequently tired, did manage to pull a goal back through teenage prodigy Lauren Keir late one but, by then, Woden had done enough and could begin to plan their assault on the trophy.

ACT Grand Finals

Gatorade Premier League Grand Final
Canberra FC
v
Belconnen United
McKellar Park
Saturday 18th September
KO 5:30pm

The Tradies Women's Premier League GRAND FINAL
Belwest Foxes
v
Woden Valley
Hawker Football Centre
Sunday 19th September
KO 3:00pm

ACT RESULTS

PREMIER LEAGUE

Preliminary Final

Belconnen United 2
(David Kemp 47', Cameron Reinhart 92')
Cooma Tigers 1
(Marcial Munoz 53')

GATORADE PREMIER LEAGUE LEADING SCORERS

18 Danny Macor (Belconnen United)
17 Alex Castro (Canberra FC)
13 Dustin Wells (Belconnen United)
12 Misko Naumoski (Canberra City)
10 Michael Spaleta (Canberra FC)
9 Tai Smith (Belconnen United), Brody Willis (Goulburn Strikers), Goran Veljanovski (Monaro Panthers)
8 Mark Shields (Tuggeranong United)

PREMIER PATHWAY LEAGUE

Preliminary Final

Belconnen United 4 (J. O'Dwyer 11', 33', J. Sverdrupsen 24', J. Colley 78')
Tuggeranong United 2 (P. Oxford 1', S. Oxford 75')

PREMIER LEAGUE UNDER-18

Preliminary Final

Woden Valley 1 (S. Lee 35') **Cooma Tigers 1** (C. Phillips 19') – Woden Valley win 6-5 on penalties

PREMIER LEAGUE UNDER-16

Preliminary Final

Woden Valley 3 (P. Varga 5', A. Popovich 11', J. Calabria 56') **Canberra FC 1** (J. Vanleeuwen 75')

MASTERS – GRAND FINAL RESULTS

Masters Division One
Canberra FC 5 Weston Creek 4

Masters Division Two
Burns Club 3 Belconnen United 2

Masters Division Three
Belnorth 2 Woden Valley 1

Masters Over-43
Canberra FC 1 Lanyon United 0

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SATURDAY MORNING

SOCCER CLINICS SKILLZ (6-12), TINY TOTS (3-5)

Lions Tamed by Perth

By Ashley Morrison

Stirling Lions were rampant in the opening quarter of an hour of their Qualifying final against last year's Champions Perth. In just the first minute Muirhead whipped in a cross from the left, which fell to Arnold, Spence in goal for Perth dived over his far from powerful effort and Stirling had the lead.

Two minutes later they had doubled their lead, this time Paul Dickson played a ball into the box from the right and Bobby Wilson who had been pushed up front for Stirling, side-footed home.

In the eighth minute they were still mauling and shell shocked Perth defence, and should have wrapped the game up. Muirhead again was the creator, crossing from the left to the back post. Marcinko was there to head down, but Spence blocked well. The rebound came back to Marcinko, struck his knee, and rolled harmlessly the wrong side of the post. Had this gone in one doubted Perth would have recovered, but the miss seemed to inspire them.

Two minutes later they had pulled a goal back. Onoforo, set up De Felice at the edge of the box, but his strike was blocked by Gavin, the ball rolled to Naglieri, who stayed calm, and played it into the path of Oliveira. He looked up and saw the keeper Turvill off his line and curled a powerful strike into his top left hand corner.

Four minutes later and Perth had pulled back both goals and we were honours even with less than fifteen minutes gone. De Felice made a run down the left, before pulling the ball back to Onoforo, who had cleverly pulled away from his marker, and under no pressure he hammered the ball into the roof of the net.

Chances continued to come for both



Perth SC's two goal hero David Onoforo takes on Lions defender Jason Gavin. Photo: Peter Simcox

sides throughout the first half, with Marcinko and Arnold being denied for Stirling and Oliveira always looking dangerous for Perth. However in injury time of the first half, it was Wilson who nearly restored Stirling's lead, his header had beaten Spence and was heading for the back of the net but Naglieri was covering and cleared off the line.

The second half started as had the first with Stirling dominant. Arnold had a shot tipped over the cross bar in the 48th minute and from the resultant corner had a goal-bound header

blocked on the line, desperate defending ensued before Perth eventually cleared their penalty area. In the 65th minute De Felice was there for Perth to clear off the goal line as Stirling continued to push. Eight minutes later with just the 'keeper to beat Marcinko on a tight angle mishit his shot across the box.

As is often the way, Stirling was made to pay for missing so many opportunities. In the 80th minute MacMurray, who had come on for Periera for Perth, was trying to make room for a shot when Gavin was deemed to

have brought him down in the box. It was a scrappy penalty, but it appeared that the referee, who was well placed had made the right decision. Up stepped Onoforo and slotted the penalty to give Perth the lead.

Stirling had two more chances to pull level, but the left footed Muirhead normally such a good set piece specialist opted to cross rather than shoot with a free kick at the edge of the box, and Perth cleared. Then in the dying seconds Boi headed into the arms of Spence when a volley may have been more effective. Perth were the victors and meet the Premiers the Western Knights next week.

Floreat Leave it Till Late

By Ashley Morrison

The late game saw Floreat Athena play ECU Joondalup in the Elimination final, and it witnessed two very differing styles of football. These two had met last week and Joondalup had come away victors 5-1.

It was Joondalup who dominated the opening exchanges, Higgins watching Dunn tip his free kick over the cross bar. Then Dunn was off his line quickly to smother the ball as Thornley played in O'Callaghan.

In the 20th minute Floreat squandered a great opportunity, Barrera, ran along the by-line before pulling the ball back to the unmarked Mikulic on the penalty

spot, but he ballooned his shot over the cross bar.

Both teams were carving out opportunities, but were either wasting those opportunities or coming up against two 'keepers in good form. In the 37th minute Floreat broke the deadlock, Atak surged onto a great through ball and out-paced Comyn-Platt, he struck a powerful drive on the run from the edge of the box, it beat Petterson and nestled in the back of the net.

A minute later Petterson made an outstanding save to deny Migas who had made space in the box to shoot from close range.

Floreat dominated the second half and it was the excellent reading of the game by Comyn-Platt and great goalkeeping from Petterson that kept Joondalup's

dreams alive. In the 67th minute their hard work was rewarded, when Floreat failed to deal with a long throw-in from the left, it was flicked on to the back post and Watt came steaming in to smash the ball home on the angle.

Floreat could have snatched the game in the 90th minute. Atak won the ball in midfield and nodded it down to Migas, who weighted a perfect pass for substitute Wood, he did everything right, but Petterson managed to block with his legs.

Extra time was without a shadow of a doubt better than the previous 90 minutes had been. Petterson pulled off another good save from Barrera in the 97th minute, before Smith broke down the left for Floreat and crossed to the back post, and Adam Bachiller headed home

to restore their lead. That was the last minute of the first half of extra time and a great time to score.

Joondalup bounced back immediately and in the 107th minute, Allen played a deep cross from a free kick and Blackmore forced the ball home for Joondalup to again claw their way back. A minute later Petterson again saved with his legs and penalties looked a surety.

But with one minute to go Migas hit a wonderful cross field ball to Branimir Mikulic, who cutting in from the left powerfully headed past Petterson, to give Floreat victory. Next week they will meet arch rival Stirling Lions for the fourth time this season, having won once, lost once and drawn once.

NEXT ROUND

Football West Finals
WEEK 2

MAJOR SEMI FINAL

Western Knights

v

Perth SC

Saturday 18 September

KO 2.00pm Nash Field

MINOR SEMI FINAL

Stirling Lions

v

Floreat Athena

Saturday 18 September

KO 6.00pm Macedonia Park

WA RESULTS

FOOTBALL WEST STATE LEAGUE ALL FLAGS FINALS SERIES

Premier Division

Results - Saturday, 11 September 2010

Floreat Athena 3 (Atak 35, Bachiller 105, Mikulic 119) ECU Joondalup 2 (Watt 65, Blackmore 107).

Stirling Lions 2 (Arnold 1, Wilson 3) Perth SC 3 (Oliveira 12, Onoforo 16, penalty 81).

FOOTBALL WEST APB STATE LEAGUE Division One

Results - Saturday, 11 September 2010

First Team

Wanneroo City 1 (McDonald 73)

Canning City 3 (Keary 3, Rickman 12, Trevisol 40);

Fremantle Spirit 1 (Fearon 13)

Forrestfield United 4 (Burns 8,, 83, Karacan 18, Melling 68);

Morley-Windmills 0

Queens Park 3 (Feather 32, 87, Angueti 53);

Ashfield 4

Gosnells City 4;

Dianella White Eagles 3

Bunbury Forum Force 1;

Rockingham City 0

Bayswater City 4

(Karpeh 6, 16,, 71, Caniglia 12).

Reserves

Wanneroo City 5 Canning City 2; Fremantle Spirit 7 Forrestfield United 0; Morley-Windmills 6 Queens Park 1; Ashfield 2 Gosnells City 0; Dianella White Eagles 1 Bunbury Forum Force 3; Rockingham City 1 Bayswater City 4.

Under 18's

Wanneroo City 3 Canning City 4; Fremantle Spirit 1 Forrestfield United 4; Dianella White Eagles 3 Bunbury Forum Force 11; Rockingham City 2 Bayswater City 1.

DIVISION ONE LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Bayswater City	22	18	1	3	76	25	51	55
2 Bunbury Forum Force	22	16	1	5	82	24	58	49
3 Wanneroo City	22	15	2	5	55	27	28	47
4 Forrestfield United	22	14	2	6	60	33	27	44
5 Gosnells City	22	14	1	7	55	43	12	43
6 Canning City	22	8	6	8	42	42	0	30
7 Dianella White Eagles	22	8	5	9	45	50	-5	29
8 Morley-Windmills	22	7	4	11	34	53	-19	25
9 Fremantle SC	22	4	6	12	35	62	-27	18
10 Rockingham City	22	5	0	17	20	72	-52	15
11 Ashfield	22	3	4	15	44	65	-21	13
12 Queens Park	22	3	2	17	33	83	-50	11

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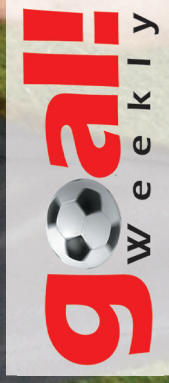
SUNSHINE COAST FIRE

Sunshine Coast F.C.



EST. 2007

PHOTO: ROBYN WOODALL



HYUNDAI QUEENSLAND STATE LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2010

Back Row: David Stark (Manager), Greig Henslee, Antony Hall (GK - Man-of-the-Match), Corey Towle, Sam Knight, Jonathon Rose, Sam Nickolls (Res GK), Tyson Holmes, Shaun Blackman, Aston Bell (coach).
(L to R) Front row: James Stinson, Josh Taylor, Alex Henderson, mascot, Ryan Delahunty, Chris Bacon, Aaron Brazendale and Jai Cross (middle row);



Sunshine Coast clinch QSL 'Double'

By Jarrod Ellis

The 2010 Hyundai QSL drew to a close on Saturday night as the Grand Final match-up between Brisbane Strikers and Sunshine Coast Fire ended as a 1-0 victory for the visitors. The winning goal came courtesy of a strike from Tyson Holmes, allowing the Fire to clinch the Premiership/Championship double and overturn a 2-1 result in the Major Semi-Final two weeks previously.

The Strikers went into the match with an unchanged starting line-up to the one that beat the Fire 2-1 in Gympie in the major semi-final a fortnight despite leading scorer Matt Thurtell's appearance being in doubt due to an ankle injury.

Sunshine Coast were without midfielder Yuta Gonai, but aside from his absence entered the match at near full-strength.

The four previous meetings between these two side had been decided by only a single goal and knowing that, Sunshine Coast coach Aston Bell would have been ecstatic with his sides start to the match.

Directly from the kick-off Brisbane missed a pass back into defence, the ball ending up instead at the feet of Coast skipper Shaun Blackman. The experienced centre-forward shielded the ball and took a defender with him as he moved in on goal before rolling the ball back to Holmes. The young midfielder showed his class as he collected the pass before hitting a powerful shot straight into the top right corner of Seb Usai's goal.

Brisbane were stung into action, having lost the two previous Grand Finals (Three including their last appearance in the BPL), they were determined to give the Perry Park faithful something to cheer about. Michael Angus having a shot blocked by Fire defender Greig Henslee only a minute after the goal.

The Strikers went perilously close to recording an equaliser in the fifth minute when Jason Shade's searching long pass fell to Chay Hews in space on the right touchline. Hews found Thurtell's run across the face of the Fire's eighteen yard box with an accurate pass, and Thurtell, with a defender breathing down his neck, turned to aim a curling shot around Hall but couldn't quite get enough bend on it to hit the target.

Just as Brisbane were getting in to the flow of things it looked as though they were about to go 2-0 down when keeper Usai hit a clearing kick directly to Sunshine Coast's Ryan Delahunty. The winger was no time hitting a long range attempt at an empty goal but was also unable to hit the target, the ball just clearing the bar.

From there the remainder of the first half belonged almost entirely to Brisbane as they launched wave after wave of attack on the visitor's goal.

Coast 'keeper Anthony Hall was in superb form however and produced a range of good saves. His best effort was perhaps his save from Sean Burke from just outside the six-yard box. Brisbane had played a perfect long ball over the top of the Fire defence allowing Burke to break onto the ball at pace, leaving him one-on-one with Hall. Anticipating a shot Hall dropped low to his right, Burke pushed the ball to his left but Hall somehow managed to get a foot to the ball denying the goal and drawing groans from the Brisbane faithful.



The celebrations are well and truly on their way after Sunshine Coast Fire defeated Brisbane Strikers to wrap up the QSL title for 2010. PHOTO: ROBYN WOODALL



The Fire claimed a 'Double' on the weekend after its U19 squad clinched the SE Championship in the curtain-raiser. They defeated the QAS side 2-1, who had defeated the Premiers, Strikers, the previous week. PHOTO: ROBYN WOODALL

The Strikers dominated possession, keeping the Fire on the back foot and Hall working overtime to keep his side in the game, having to make quality saves from Burke and Thurtell before the half was out. This contrasted directly to Usai who didn't have to make a save before the half was out.

As the second half began it was more of the same, Brisbane throwing everything they had at Sunshine Coast but the visitors defence held firm. Delahunty was proving to be the Fire's main outlet in attacking, making several scurrying forays down the touchline but was unable to deliver a quality ball into the middle that

may have delivered a goal.

Brisbane's hopes of an equaliser were dealt a severe blow in the fifty-fourth minute when Thurtell succumbed to his ankle injury and David Large was forced to bring on Reagan Adler in his place to play alongside Sean Burke upfront.

An inspired through-ball from Hews, picking out a run into the Fire's penalty area by Angus, had the Fire's defence at breaking point in the sixtieth minute, but Angus's shot flew into Hall's side netting instead of drawing the 'keeper into a save. A minute later a lofted cross from the right touchline by Griffin found the head of Burke on the edge of the six-yard

box, but the strikers' downwardly-directed header unfortunately went straight at Hall, who was positioned on his line in the centre of his goal.

As the match wore on Hall continued his superb performance, denying any Brisbane shot on goal and marshalling the defence well.

The Fire had two chances late on to ensure the result but both times Brisbane escaped unscathed. The first saw Delahunty deliver an excellent cross to the far-post of Usai's goal, but Blackman was unable to get a touch despite a desperate diving effort. Blackman then turned provider, playing Cory Towle but the substitute's

shot was comfortably saved by Usai.

With the match drawing to a close Brisbane's frustration was clear, largely relying on hopeful through and long balls in an attempt to get past a committed defensive effort from the visitors.

The Strikers' final chance fell to Myles Carseldine, Reagan Alder heading the ball on to Carseldine in the box but the winger's volley flew harmlessly high much to the relief of Hall.

Three minutes of time were added on but it wasn't enough to change the result and Sunshine Coast ended 2010 as deserving Hyundai QSL Champions.

FINALS RESULTS

Hyundai Queensland State League Final

Brisbane Strikers 0
defeated
Sunshine Coast Fire 1
(Holmes 1)

Youth League Grand Final

Sunshine Coast Fire 2
(Frew 38, Bell 45)
defeated
QAS 1 (Riis 28)

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PHOTO: WALTER PLESS

SOUTH HOBART FC

TASMANIAN PREMIER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2010

Back Row (L-R): Shae Hickey, Jonathon Lo, Sam Kruijver, Tom Roach, Daniel Brown, Andy Brennan
Front Row (L-R): Jim Pennicott, Liam Scott, Bart Beecroft, Hugh Ludford, Kostas Kanakaris

South Hobart make it five out of five in Tasmania

By Walter Pless

South Hobart picked up their fifth piece of silverware for the season in Tasmania on Saturday when they beat Northern Rangers 1-0 in the State-wide Top-Four grand final.

They thus completed their season with the State Premiership trophy, having already collected the Steve Hudson Cup, the Summer Cup, the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy and the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League title.

And, they set a new Tasmanian record by remaining undefeated in 34 consecutive matches.

The win against Northern Rangers, who suffered only one loss in winning the Forestry Tasmania Northern Premier League title, was typical of their recent games.

South had numerous chances, survived a few scares, and won 1-0.

Northern Rangers made the mistake of playing just one striker, Stefan Jago, who was always outnumbered.

It was only in the final 15 minutes, when they trailed 1-0, that Rangers pushed men forward in an attempt to find an equaliser. And, they came close to doing so.

Gabriel Tams sent a pile-driver from the right just over the bar, while Paul Bremner saw his header bounce close to the line almost in slow motion before the South Hobart defence cleared the ball.

Adopting a cautious approach from the outset, Rangers had a few long-range efforts that came to nothing, whereas South Hobart looked dangerous every time they got the ball down the flanks.

Defenders Jim Pennicott and Liam Scott were given the space to push forward regularly and it was Pennicott who almost scored in the 7th minute with a long-range drive that flew narrowly wide.



TAS Grand Final

Forestry Tasmania
Top Four Final Series
Grand Final

South Hobart 1

v

Northern Rangers 0

KGV Park, Saturday 11th Sept

The victorious South Hobart side that swept all before it in its centenary year. PHOTO: WALTER PLESS

In the 10th minute, Jonathon Lo missed a sitter from close range after Andy Brennan pulled the ball back for him from the right.

Lo missed another glorious chance in the 37th minute when he blazed over the bar from 12 metres. It was difficult to reconcile these misses with the fact that Lo was the Premier League's leading marksman with 18 goals.

The second half began with South on the attack and, in the 48th minute, Shae Hickey sent a

tremendous shot just wide of the angle of crossbar and post.

Brennan failed to control a Tom Roach cross in the 57th minute and another chance went begging for South Hobart.

Lo scooped the ball wide two minutes later, while on the hour, a deep cross from the right by Pennicott deceived Rangers keeper Marshall Pooley and flew over his head before coming back into play off the base of the far left-hand post.

Given that sort of pressure, a

goal had to come, and it did in the 67th minute. A throw-in near the corner flag on the left went to Kostas Kanakaris, who laid the ball back for Hickey. He floated a cross towards the far post and Roach rose above his opponents to head home.

Rangers missed a marvellous chance to equalise in the 71st minute when a Tams corner from the right towards the far post found Todd Hingston, but his powerful close-range header flew straight into the arms of

South Hobart keeper Sam Kruijver.

In the 76th minute, Lo missed his fourth chance of the match. Scott's pass put him through the defence and in a one-on-one with keeper Pooley, but the ball bobbled at the last minute and he scuffed the shot wide.

South survived the final quarter of an hour of pressure to lift the trophy, but Rangers could have done more to make a game of it.





Victorian Metropolitan League & Women's Results

goalweekly.com



MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE NORTH-WEST: As-
cot Vale 1 (A AL-Mugotir) Tullamarine Jets 9 (H Azer 3
M Al Kazimi 4 R Ates A Koruklu), Heidelberg Stars 4 (M
Ahmed AH Elmi W Yusuf 2) Altona North 1 (D Vetrone),
Keon Park 0 Northern Utd 4 (C Dickson), Light Utd 1 (O
Tasci) Moreland Wolves 1 (J Dougall), Yarra Jets 7 (M
Matthews 2 S Conway 4 S Saxton) Oak Park 2 (M Yilmaz
2), Reserves: Ascot Vale 2 Tullamarine Jets 1, Heidel-
berg Stars 4 Altona North 1, Keon Park 1 Northern Utd 7,
Light Utd 2 Moreland Wolves 1, Yarra Jets 3 Oak Park 4

MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE SOUTH-EAST:
Ringwood City 3 (L Van Gulik A Fleming E Frans)
Parkmore 3 (Z Seci 2 A Jovanovic), St Kevins Har-
risfield Hurricanes , Endeavour Hills 2 (M Ally NJ
Leimee) Caulfield Grammarians 1 (S Gara), Middle
Park FC 2 (G Cremming A- Smith) Old Mentonians 0,
Reserves: Ringwood City 1 Parkmore 4, St Kevins 3
Harrisfield Hurricanes 2, Endeavour Hills 1 Caulfield
Grammarians 0, Middle Park FC 7 Old Mentonians 0

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 1: Ballarat & District 1
(T Benoit) Uni. of Melbourne 3 (K Walters 2 A Andersen)

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 NORTH-WEST: Cairn-
lea 1 (D Mutluel) FC Bulleen Lions 2 (M Simonetti P Bernini)

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 SOUTH-EAST: Al-
bert Park 2 (T Kiddle H Saur) Berwick City 1 (C Lopea)

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Dia-
mond Valley Utd 3 (A McMillan 2 S Gooney) Yarra Jets 0

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-
EAST: Seaford Utd 2 (AN Remman A Pip-
er) Croydon City Arrows 2 (E Ugrasbul 2)

Mens	Metropolitan	League	North-West						
		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Moreland Wolves		22	13	4	5	55	23	43	
Heidelberg Stars		22	13	4	5	38	24	43	
Light Utd		21	12	5	4	44	26	41	
Tullamarine Jets		21	11	6	4	57	24	39	
Yarra Jets		22	10	6	6	52	36	36	
Altona North		21	7	7	7	39	42	28	
Oak Park		22	8	7	7	52	45	25	
Northern Utd		22	4	4	14	30	41	16	
Keon Park		21	4	3	14	32	81	15	
Ascot Vale		22	1	4	17	16	73	7	

Mens	Metropolitan	League	North-West			Reserves				
			P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Northern Utd			21	16	1	4	62	33	49	
Heidelberg Stars			22	14	6	2	72	37	48	
Light Utd			20	15	2	3	63	28	47	
Moreland Wolves			22	12	4	6	65	34	40	
Oak Park			22	11	2	9	53	45	35	
Tullamarine Jets			21	10	4	7	58	41	34	
Ascot Vale			22	5	3	14	31	57	18	
Yarra Jets			20	4	5	11	41	53	16	
Altona North			21	4	3	14	29	61	14	
Keon Park			21	0	0	21	26	111	0	

Mens	Metropolitan	League	South-East						
		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Middle Park FC		19	15	3	1	57	15		
Dandenong Warriors		18	9	7	2	39	26	34	
Parkmore		17	9	3	5	35	27	30	
Harrisfield Hurricanes		19	8	5	6	38	36	29	
Ringwood City		19	8	3	8	36	43	27	
Endeavour Hills		19	4	6	9	25	35	18	
Old Mentonians		17	3	7	7	21	25	16	
Caulfield Grammarians		20	3	7	10	29	41	16	
St Kevins		18	2	3	13	24	56	9	

Mens	Metropolitan	League	South-East	Reserves				
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Middle Park FC	19	18	1	0	86	10	55	
Ringwood City	19	10	4	5	46	32	34	
Dandenong Warriors	16	10	2	4	42	29	29	
St Kevins	19	6	6	7	28	30	24	
Harrisfield Hurricanes	20	6	4	10	32	40	22	
Caulfield Grammarians	20	4	4	12	33	57	16	
Endeavour Hills	18	5	1	12	20	62	16	
Parkmore	16	4	3	9	24	36	15	
Old Mentonians	15	4	3	8	29	44	15	

Womens	State	League	Div	1					
		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Bundoora Utd		17	14	1	2	53	13	43	
Doncaster Rovers		18	12	4	2	45	16	39	
Ballarat & District		18	11	3	4	46	19	35	
Uni. of Melbourne		18	10	3	5	38	23	33	
South Springvale		18	9	1	8	35	28	28	
Bayswater Strikers		17	7	3	7	41	34	24	
Monbulk		18	5	6	7	19	19	21	
Whitehorse Utd		18	4	4	10	32	47	13	
South Yarra		18	2	1	15	11	70	7	
Brighton		18	1	2	15	10	61	5	

Womens	State	League	Div	1	Reserves			
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Doncaster Rovers	18	16	2	0	66	2	50	42
Bundoora Utd	17	13	3	1	65	10	42	34
Uni. of Melbourne	18	10	4	4	50	22	34	25
South Springvale	17	9	3	5	30	23	30	25
Bayswater Strikers	15	8	1	6	39	30	25	21
Monbulk	17	6	3	8	24	28	21	16
Brighton	17	3	7	7	14	42	16	14
Whitehorse Utd	18	4	2	12	18	47	14	6
Ballarat Lady Devils	15	1	3	11	9	38	6	2
South Yarra	18	0	2	16	6	79	2	

Womens	State	League	Div	2	North-West
	P	W	D	L	F A P T
Cairnlea	17	13	4	0	70 11 43
FC Bulleen Lions	17	13	2	2	55 8 41
La Trobe University	17	13	0	4	62 16 39
Western Eagles	17	11	2	4	58 15 35
North Geelong Warriors	17	10	1	6	36 17 31
Western Suburbs	17	5	1	11	20 43 16
Darebin Falcons	17	4	1	12	18 55 13
Melbourne Bears	17	2	1	14	6 83 7
Whittlesea Ranges FC	17	0	1	16	10 82 1

Womens	State	League	Div	2	South-East
	P	W	D	L	F A P T
Albert Park	18	13	2	3	56 17 41
Sandringham	18	10	5	3	38 16 35
Berwick City	18	9	1	8	40 31 28
Southern Suburbs	18	8	4	6	31 32 28
Mooroolbark	18	7	4	7	29 39 25
Ashburton	18	6	5	7	32 31 23
Noble Park	18	7	2	9	38 47 23
Mornington	18	5	6	7	20 28 21
North Caulfield	18	4	5	9	27 45 17
Monash University	18	1	6	11	19 44 9

Womens	State	League	Div	3	North-West					
			P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Keilor Park			18	17	0	1	122	32	51	51
Yarra Jets			18	14	1	3	63	23	43	
Brunswick Zebras			18	12	4	2	49	25	40	
Diamond Valley Utd			18	12	1	5	55	35	37	37
Eltham Redbacks			18	7	4	7	49	31	25	25
Melton			18	7	2	9	31	45	23	23
Sunshine George Cross			18	5	2	11	26	45	17	17
Old Carey			18	4	0	14	29	79	12	12
Kyneton District			18	3	0	15	15	71	9	9
Maribyrnong Utd			18	2	0	16	20	73	6	6



Victorian Junior Results & Ladders

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FOOTBALL FEDERATION VICTORIA: JUNIOR
FINALS RESULTS - SEPTEMBER 10 -12 2010

Finals - Boys 12A: Richmond 2 Altona City 1, Hampton
1 FC Bulleen Lions 1, Richmond 0 FC Bulleen Lions 3

Finals - Boys 12D & E: Boronia 1 Croydon City Arrows 2

Finals - Boys 13A: FC Bulleen Lions 2 Essendon Royals 1

Finals - Boys 13B: GRFA 0 Nunawading City FC 3

Finals - Boys 14A: Green Gully
Cavaliers 2 South Eastern Piranhas 2

Finals-Boys 14B: Whitehorse Utd 1 Green Gully Cavaliers 1

Finals - Boys 16A: Richmond 1 Melbourne
Knights 3, Knox City 0 Melbourne Knights 1

Finals - Boys 15A: FC Bulleen Lions 0 Brunswick Zebras 0

Finals - Boys 15B: Northcote City 0 Green Gully Cava-
liers 4, FC Bulleen Lions 1 Green Gully Cavaliers 3

Finals - Boys 16B: Yarraville Glory 3 Doncaster Rovers 1

Finals - Boys 18 - 1: South Melbourne 2 North Caulfield 2

Finals - Boys 18 - 2: Sherbrooke Rangers 3 South Mel-
bourne 0, Essendon Royals 3 Sherbrooke Rangers 1

Finals - Girls 12A: Sandringham 0 Ashburton 0

Finals - Girls 12B: Casey Panthers 0 Pascoe Vale 3

Finals - Girls 14A: FC Bulleen Lions 2 Brighton 0, Brigh-
ton 3 Keilor Park 4, Keilor Park 0 FC Bulleen Lions 3

Finals - Girls 14B & C: Sandringham 1 Box Hill Inter 0

Finals - Girls 16B: Watsonia Heights 2

Box Hill Inter 6, Box Hill Inter 5 Skye Utd 0

Finals - Girls 16C & D: Eltham Redback FC 3 Glen
Waverley 1, Glen Waverley 0 Eltham Redback FC 1

Finals - Girls 18: East Bentleigh 0 Pascoe Vale 1

Finals	-	Boys					13C	
		P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
FC Bulleen Lions		2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Sunshine George Cross		2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Keysborough		2	0	0	2	2	7	0

Finals	-	Girls					14A		
		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
FC Bulleen Lions		2	2	0	0	5	0	6	
Keilor Park		2	1	0	1	4	6	3	
Sandringham		0				0	0	0	
Brighton		2	0	0	2	3	6	0	

Finals	-	Girls					16A		
		P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	
Boroondara Eagles		2	2	0	0	7	3	6	
Essendon Royals		2	1	0	1	6	2	3	
Skye Utd		2	0	0	2	3	11	0	

Finals	-	Girls					16B		
		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Box Hill Inter		2	2	0	0	11	2	6	
Watsonia Heights		2	1	0	1	4	7	3	
Skye Utd		2	0	0	2	1	7	0	

Finals	-	Girls							18
		P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	
Whitehorse Utd		2	1	1	0	5	4	4	
Pascoe Vale		2	1	0	1	2	2	3	
East Bentleigh		2	0	1	1	3	4	1	



Palace seniors - won the SEWFA for the 4th time in a row on the week-
end

SEWFA DETAILS



Under 14 final

Wanderers 4 d Palace 3
Goal scorers:
Wanderers - J White, K Lehmann, M
Sims, M Iannella
Palace - I Pratt 2, S McCarthy

Senior final

Palace 3 d City 1
Goal scorers:
Palace - J McCormick 2, I Pratt
City - J Smith



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CATCH UP FIXTURES

State SE 2
Round 20
Frankston Pines v Dandenong City
Monterey Reserve Sat 18 Sep KO 3:00PM
Southern Suburbs v Heatherton Utd
Keeley Park Sat 18 Sep KO 3:00PM

Round 21
Southern Stars v Frankston Pines
The Grange Reserve Thurs 16 Sep KO 7:30PM

Seniors		PROVI 3 NORTH WEST						Reserves						Seniors		PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST						Reserves									
Balmoral 0 Brimbank Stallions 1 (J Laguna), Meadow Park Eagles 1 (D Magro) Darebin Utd 0, Youth Utd 0 Brunswick Zebras 1, Bundoora Utd 6 (K Papagiantis 3 M Falzon D Ravenhill) Mill Park 1 (P Mina), Keilor Wolves 2 Northern Roosters 2, Upfield 2 (A Nasan J Kakos) Watsonia Heights 0								Balmoral 1 Brimbank Stallions 2, Meadow Park Eagles 4 Darebin Utd 1, Youth Utd 2 Brunswick Zebras 4, Bundoora Utd 6 Mill Park 0, Keilor Wolves 5 Northern Roosters 2, Upfield 0 Watsonia Heights 0								Keysborough 2 (D Verdichizzi D- Hancock) Glen Waverley 1, Noble Park 3 Manningham 1, Old Trinity Grammarians 4 (A Erbasan DJ Vissantis TW Didenko) Rowville Eagles 1 (D Pop), Seaford Utd 5 (M Curd SD Curd J Rose) Essendon Royals 0, White Star Dandenong 1 (E Tepedelenioglu) East Bentleigh 2, Brighton 2 (A Lark P McCaig) Eltham Redbacks 1								Keysborough 0 Glen Waverley 2, Noble Park 2 Manningham 1, Old Trinity Grammarians 6 Rowville Eagles 5, Seaford Utd 7 Essendon Royals 0, White Star Dandenong 1 East Bentleigh 0, Brighton 7 Eltham Redbacks 1							
P W D L F A PT								P W D L F A PT								P W D L F A PT								P W D L F A PT							
Upfield								Watsonia Heights								Keysborough								Old Trinity Grammarians							
21 15 4 2 48 20 49								22 18 2 2 87 23 56								22 14 4 4 51 24 46								20 16 1 3 65 23 49							
Northern Roosters								Upfield								Seaford Utd								Seaford Utd							
21 15 3 3 53 25 48								21 15 3 3 115 26 48								22 14 3 5 51 26 45								22 13 4 5 58 25 42							
Watsonia Heights								Youth Utd								Rowville Eagles								Brighton							
21 11 5 5 36 17 38								22 14 2 6 71 53 44								22 13 3 6 42 30 39								22 13 1 8 55 39 40							
Darebin Utd								Brimbank Stallions								Brighton								White Star Dandenong							
21 12 2 7 40 25 38								20 12 3 5 57 43 39								22 10 4 8 40 29 34								22 11 4 7 38 29 37							
Meadow Park Eagles								Brunswick Zebras								Eltham Redbacks								Glen Waverley							
21 9 4 8 27 24 31								21 9 7 5 45 36 34								21 11 1 9 36 27 34								19 11 1 7 48 34 30							
Brimbank Stallions								Balmoral								White Star Dandenong								Eltham Redbacks							
21 6 7 8 36 39 25								22 10 1 11 42 46 31								22 10 2 10 43 39 32								21 9 4 8 30 36 31							
Brunswick Zebras								Darebin Utd								Essendon Royals								Manningham							
21 5 9 7 28 28 24								21 9 2 10 39 51 29								22 8 3 11 34 55 27								22 9 2 11 45 54 29							
Youth Utd								Keilor Wolves								Old Trinity Grammarians								Rowville Eagles							
22 6 10 13 33 26 24								21 6 3 12 51 82 21								21 8 2 11 28 34 26								20 8 7 5 43 40 27							
Balmoral								Meadow Park Eagles								East Bentleigh								East Bentleigh							
21 8 5 8 39 32 23								20 5 3 12 32 48 18								22 7 5 10 27 33 26								22 8 3 11 28 34 27							
Mill Park								Bundoora Utd								Noble Park								Keysborough							
22 5 3 14 28 64 18								21 4 3 14 43 75 15								22 7 2 13 30 45 23								22 6 5 11 33 40 23							
Keilor Wolves								Mill Park								Glen Waverley								Noble Park							
21 3 6 12 29 58 15								22 4 3 15 39 98 12								20 5 6 9 26 41 21								22 5 2 15 33 60 17							
Bundoora Utd								Northern Roosters								Manningham								Essendon Royals							
21 4 2 15 28 57 14								19 1 6 12 32 72 9								22 4 3 15 28 53 15								22 1 2 19 21 83 5							

Winner v Preston Lions
Sunday 26 September
White Eagles Stadium
KO TBC

Saints take SL1 title in last day dramas

By Aritro Abedin

In what has been one of the most unpredictable and tightly contested state league one seasons ever recorded, it was perhaps fitting that it took several astonishing twist in the tale before the crucial final analysis at both ends of the table could be decided.

It took two goals in seven manic minutes at Lawton Park Reserve for the famous Preston Lions to avoid the ignominy of relegation to SL2. Meanwhile, it took 18 even more manic minutes at White Eagles Stadium for Springvale to hand the league title to hated rivals St.Alban’s, on an afternoon on which they’d all but had their name embossed on the trophy.

Like many other observers, at 3pm Saturday afternoon, Saints coach Kruni Razov wasn’t really entertaining any serious thoughts about getting his hands on this year’s championship.

‘We were just happy to concentrate on the game and get a win so we could finish in second spot and get promoted.’

Despite having taken an impressive 3-1 victory in Monday night’s crunch game against Bulleen Lions to be two points adrift at the top, they, like everyone else, would have been expecting Springvale to hold on and do the business on Saturday to take home the league title they’ve looked like winning right from the first week of the season. St.Albans, for their part, could hardly have done any more, unleashing a furious flurry against strugglers Malvern to romp to a 6-1 win, with marksman Goran Jozeljic helping himself to a hattrick on the way.

However, the real action was happening at White Eagles Stadium, where Springvale hosted the always competitive Bulleen Lions, needing only a point to secure the title. And anyone who may have been entertaining the idea of any other outcome would have abandoned those thoughts very quickly, when Springvale took advantage of some schoolboy defending from the Lions to go 2-0 ahead fifteen minutes into the first half. Victory looked assured and the celebrations had already started. Though Bulleen pegged one back through Junior Adilson, the White Eagles were simply irresistible, running home two more goals to take it into half time at 4-2, with the championship more or less in the bag.

However, as the White Eagles were about to find out, in football nothing is assured. With the score still at 4-2, and Springvale needing to hold on for just 18 more minutes to secure the title. But things started looking ominous when Anthony Magnacca smashed in a free-kick from outside the box, as he has done often during his career, to make it a 4-3. Some nerves may have set in among the Springvale faithful at this stage, but they stress levels would have been going completely off the charts ten minutes later when a Harris Vrbovac header made it 4-4. Needing to hold on for less than five minutes, the game went into over-drive as Bulleen attacked liked demons, squandering a number of chances while the Springvale players and crowd quietly hyper-ventilated amidst the tension.

And ultimately, football dealt Springvale one of those cruel twists of fate that only football can, when right before the final whistle, Matthew Dimech trapped the ball thirty yards from goal and then fired an absolute howitzer of a shot that very nearly broke the net along with every single Springvale heart. As the referee blew the final whistle, the score was 5-4 to Bulleen and Springvale had spectacularly bottled the division title they’d looked completely assured of a mere twenty minutes before.

Meanwhile, in a different part of the city, one thousand ecstatic St.Albans fans exploded into that frenzy of jubilation that only title-winners can know; a celebration that went on right into the early hours of Sunday morning.

Saints boss Kruni Razov pinpointed the humiliating 3-0 loss to Croatian rivals North Geelong as the turning point of the season.

‘I’d say it was Round 12 that turned everything around. We copped a hiding against North Geelong that finished three-nil, and that was a huge wake-up call. I think up to that point, the boys still recalled last year’s devastation and were still really hurt by it, but I think since that game we’ve had a chat and changed a few things and that was what won it for us.’

Certainly no one at St.Albans will have forgotten or forgiven the heart-wrenching turn of events of last year, when their team won the division by four points, only to have the trophy snatched away from them when an overzealous celebration from the crowd saw the FFV take nine points off their final tally. Razov spoke of the lingering effects of that set-back, describing how it had deflated his players.

‘To be quite honest, they just felt really let down. They felt thing should be easier than that, but no it didn’t work out like that. We needed a real wake-up call to get our season going again, and we got that against North Geelong.’

The Saints barely raised a yelp during the first half of the season, succumbing to eight draws in their first 11 games to find themselves not within



The Sainst savor the moment after swooping on the SL1 title. PHOTO: STEVE STAREK

Ma-ke-donia! Ma-ke-donia!

By Craig MacKenzie

THAT’S the chant that reverberated around Lawton Park on Saturday at the final whistle after Preston Lions fans saw their team achieve the near impossible.

Preston didn’t just stare a two-goal deficit in the face with less than 10 minutes to go. No, it was staring at something much more sinister – oblivion.

Long-time club supporters talking to Langwarrin fans during the reserves game said that if they ended up in one of the two automatic relegation spots in State One then the club would not continue beyond this season.

And when Matt Durand nabbed Langwarrin’s second after teenager Alex van Heerwaarden had opened the scoring it looked like curtains for the Macedonian-backed visitors.

That’s because second-bottom side Clifton Hill had taken a 4–1 lead against home team Western Suburbs, clawing back the three-point buffer enjoyed by Preston and using its superior goal difference to push Preston into second-bottom spot.

Then the miracle happened. Andy Branov and Edin Ahmetovic became club legends in the space of a few minutes and Preston had secured the precious point it



Preston Lions fans are in raptures after their team’s amazing fight-back against Langwarrin on Saturday. Photo: JASON GILLICK.

needed.

Preston now faces a play-off for its State One status against the winner of a play-off between Diamond Valley and Whittlesea Ranges, the runners-up in State Two South-East and North-West respectively.

The State Two shootout takes place at SS Anderson Reserve this Saturday at 2.30pm. The winner lines up against Pres-

ton at White Eagles Stadium on Sunday 26 September at 2pm.

Judging by Preston’s display on Saturday it will go into this crunch fixture as a firm favourite and if it stays in State One then watch out for the Connor Reserve outfit in 2011.

we only copped four or five goals in the second half of the season.’

Tactical considerations aside, St.Albans win was a triumph of incredible character and resilience, and very few teams in our state’s history have come back from a 12 point gulf at the half-way point of a season to win a division title in the style that they did. No one could deny that the players and coaching staff at the Saints thoroughly earned the night of celebrations which Razov described as ‘electric’. Meanwhile, at the other end of the table, Clifton Hill hosted Western Suburbs at Kevin Bartlett Reserve knowing that only a win for them and a loss for Preston would save them from relegation.

Their players responded in fine style, thumping Suburbs 4-1 with Sam Tyrikos snatching a double. All they could do was wait for news from Lawton Park, where a proud legion of Preston faithful looked on breathless while their team trailed 2-0 Langwarrin in the 83rd minute. Though they cheered the side on at an impressive decibel, most were surely preparing themselves for life in Victoria’s third tier at this stage of proceedings. However, as at White Eagles Stadium, a miracle occurred in

the dying minutes of the game as Edin Ahmetovic and Andrew Branov notched up the most important goals of their footballing careers to give one of the state’s most famous clubs a reprieve that their fans will never forget. The 2-2 draw ensured that Preston had the points to stay in the division. But as their fans went wild, Clifton Hill were left to rue what might have been.

Coach Alex Kiratzoglu pointed to a series of set-backs that ultimately consigned his club to the drop zone.

‘Hindsight’s a beautiful thing. It took us a lot longer to get going than we’d have hoped and I wish we’d gelled a bit earlier. To be honest, there’s not much between teams in this league, sometimes, it’s a very fine line. Some greater consistency would have been good, and having the starting eleven available the majority period of time would have been good. Unfortunately, we were always chopping and changing, and struggling with injuries – I would have loved to have settled earlier than we did.’

‘But look, I still think we’ve got the nucleus of a good team, and next year will be a good challenge for the club. I’d like to think we’ve got nothing to fear.’

SL1 RESULTS

**Fawkner Blues 2
Whittlesea Zebras 0**

**FC Clifton Hill 4
(SG Tyrikos 2)
Western Suburbs 1**

**Langwarrin 2
(M Durand A Van Heer-
waarden)
Preston Lions 2
(AJ Branov)**

**Pascoe Vale 2
(B Micovski L Flynn)
North Geelong Warriors 1
(R Zadworny)**

**Springvale White Eagles 4
(N Veljovic G Mrdic R Tomic)
FC Bulleen Lions 5
(A Magnacca MJ Dimech H
Vrbovac AA De Melo (Junior)
2)**

**St Albans Saints 6
(J Loncaric G Jozeljic 3 T Ra-
zov BT Chesson)
Malvern City 1**

Under 21s:
Fawkner Blues 1 Whittlesea
Zebras 0, FC Clifton Hill 3 West-
ern Suburbs 1, Langwarrin 3
Preston Lions 1, Pascoe Vale
4 North Geelong Warriors 1, St
Albans Saints 2 Malvern City 1,
Springvale White Eagles 2 FC
Bulleen Lions 3

SL1 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Albans Saints (C)	22	11	9	2	51	27	39
Springvale White Eagles	22	12	3	7	45	34	39
Fawkner Blues	22	11	5	6	36	26	38
FC Bulleen Lions	22	10	7	5	42	28	37
Pascoe Vale	22	11	4	7	40	28	37
Langwarrin	22	11	3	8	45	40	36
Western Suburbs	22	8	7	7	35	31	31
North Geelong Warriors	22	7	6	9	28	27	27
Whittlesea Zebras	22	7	6	9	25	28	27
Preston Lions	22	5	5	12	25	42	20
FC Clifton Hill (R)	22	5	4	13	28	38	19
Malvern City (R)	22	4	1	17	19	70	13

SL1 U21 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Langwarrin	22	14	3	5	49	36	45
North Geelong Warriors	22	13	5	4	46	27	44
FC Bulleen Lions	22	13	4	5	55	37	43
Pascoe Vale	22	14	0	8	56	35	42
Springvale White Eagles	22	9	4	9	48	35	31
Whittlesea Zebras	22	9	4	9	38	33	31
Western Suburbs	20	8	3	9	31	53	27
St Albans Saints	22	9	1	12	34	40	25
FC Clifton Hill	21	7	4	10	34	45	25
Preston Lions	22	5	6	11	38	45	21
Malvern City	22	5	3	14	32	50	18
Fawkner Blues	21	3	5	13	16	41	14

It’s hard to summon the words to describe a day of such bipolar emotions as the hopes of so many clubs were raised and dashed, only to be raised and dashed again. Perhaps Sir Alex Ferguson said it better than anyone else possibly could after the miracle at Barcelona in 1999. ‘Football eh? Bloody hell!’

Retraction

Many of our readers will have noticed last week’s SL1 wrap in which this writer announced Springvale White Eagles as the division winners. Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge and retract this epic stuff-up, and apologise to all our readers. I suppose the lesson to be learned here is that in football journalism, much as in other things in life, it’s never a good thing to be premature. – AA.

ST ALBANS DINAMO



Back Row: Danny Jutrisa (President), Joe Paulus (Asst Secretary), Kruni Razov (Coach), Steven Pavlovic, Goran Jozeljic, Josip Loncaric, Mark Paleka, Adam Mehicic, Tomislav Uskok, Franjo Saric, Ivo Razov, Maks Cuze Captain, Anthony Sesto (Manager).
Front Row: Joe Kovacevic-Ass/Coach, Martin Hana, Stefan Jesensek, Tomi Razov, Marijan Cvitkovic, Marina Kasalo-Miss Dinamo2009, Metin Alibeyi, Brian Chesson, Chris Hili, Mustafa Alibeyi, Mark Ivkovic, Macheal Grgic.

CHAMPIONS 2010

VICTORIAN STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE



Green Gully rejoice after Matt Sanders scored. Photo: Anita Milas



The Green and White Army erupts after Matthew Sanders opens the scoring. Photo: Anita Milas



Green Gully's Graham Hockless and the Jimmy Rooney Medal for Man of the Match. Photo: Daniel Flis



Box Hill are ecstatic after Aimee Benton scores the winner and wraps up the WPL title. Photo: Anita Milas



Heidelberg's Melanie Camileri shows the power that made her a force to be reckoned with this season. Photo: Anita Milas



Richmond's Jess Krncevic tries in vain to penetrate the Gully defence. Photo: Anita Milas

Les Shorrock's Action Packed Picture Page



Melissa Barbieri, who backed up Box Hill's solid defence, takes the ball cleanly to deny Belinda Pannella a chance to score. Photo: John Punshon



Dean Fak gets a hero's send off. Photo: Anita Milas

BOX HILL INTER WFC



CHAMPIONS 2010

ALANIC VICTORIAN WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE



PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

Inter makes it 8 WPL titles in 9 years

By Niki Cook

Box Hill Inter is once again the Victorian Women's Premier League Champion, after it defeated Heidelberg United 2-1 in the Grand Final at AAMI Park on Saturday afternoon.

The title is Inter's third in a row and fourth in five years, with all five finals having also featured Heidelberg. Goals from Deanne Niceski and Aimee Benton secured the victory for Box Hill, with Melanie Camilleri scoring for Heidelberg.

Spectators barely had time to settle in to their seats before Inter broke the deadlock. The minor premier was awarded a somewhat questionable corner in the second minute, and Marlies Oostdam swung the ball in from the right. The cross was half cleared to the back edge of the box, where it was met by Deanna Niceski who struck a sweet volley back across the goal and into the far corner, sparking wild celebrations amongst the Inter players.

After the early drama, the match settled to a gentler tempo. The Heidelberg players, initially shell-shocked at having conceded so early, gradually came back into the game, and started to gain the upper hand in terms of possession. Katia Tavoraro was causing Inter some problems down the left flank, but despite finding plenty of space she was unable to deliver the final ball.

WPL top goalscorer Melanie Camilleri was busy up front for United, but she was all too often isolated when she received the ball, and the experienced Inter defence of Lauren Farrugia, Yvette Muscat and Oostdam was able to stifle any threat that United presented. Veteran striker Belinda Pannella had the first clear opportunity for Heidelberg shortly after the twenty minute mark after Julia Nicolaci squared the ball to her at the top of the box, but her shot was comfortably caught by Inter custodian, Melissa Barbieri.

Box Hill never looked in danger of conceding, but at the same time it



Box Hill Inter Coach Jeff Hawkins and captain Yvette Muscat hold aloft the 2010 WPL trophy. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

was not creating any real chances either, with Jolene Miller and Rita Mankowska solid at the heart of the Heidelberg defence. It had penalty claims waved away ten minutes before half time, with Aleksandra Sinclair booked for dissent as a result of protesting the decision.

The pace stepped up in the second half, as Heidelberg came out looking for the equaliser. The game opened up as a result, which gave Inter more space and enabled it to create more opportunities as well. Heidelberg keeper, Katie Neville was called into action on several occasions early in the half and, although not always convincing in her clearances, she prevented Inter adding to its tally. There was little she could do fifteen minutes from time, however, when a beautiful diagonal ball over the United defence from Tal Karp found substitute Aimee

Benton, who coolly stroked the ball past Neville to double Inter's advantage.

Two minutes later, and Heidelberg was back in the game. Camilleri had worked hard all afternoon with little reward, but she made no mistake when she ran onto Sarah Groenewald's ball, hitting a fierce angled volley past Barbieri to halve the deficit. United continued to press, looking for an equaliser, but rarely testing the Box Hill defence. In fact, Inter could well have pulled further ahead, had Niceski not pulled up injured after being set clean through on goal. In the dying seconds of the game, Camilleri almost sent the match into extra time, fizzing another fierce shot at the Inter goal, but Barbieri held firm, stopping the strike with her face, with the rebound hacked clear by the defence.

Georgia Koutrouvelis, busy in the

Box Hill midfield, was named best on ground, as Inter made it three premierships and three minor premierships in the last three years. Its coach, Jeff Hawkins, was especially pleased with the performance of his squad, given that it had played the match without three key players in Louisa Bisby, Kat Smith and Jessica Humble, all of whom missed through injury.

Despite losing a third straight final, Heidelberg manager John Lioupas was proud of the way his team had fought its way back into the match, and warned that they would be back to challenge again next year.

With this year's competition having been much more even than in previous years, it will be interesting to see whether United can make good on that promise, and whether anyone can end Box Hill's stranglehold on the title.



There's not much to smile about minutes after losing a Grand Final. Photo: John Punshon



Inter are out of the blocks early after Deanna Niceski found the back of the net. Photo: Anita Milas

WPL FINALS 2010

WomensPremier League Grand Final

Box Hill Inter 2
(Deanna NICESKI 2', Aimee BENTON 76')
Heideblberg United 1
(Melanie CAMILLERI 79')

Saturday 11th September 2010
AAMI Park Melbourne
Kick-off: 3 pm

Referee: Kate JACEWICZ
Assistant Referees: Amanda MULDOON and Laura MOYA
Attendance: 355 estimated

Box Hill Inter: 11 Melissa BARBIERI, 2 Krystal McCLUSKEY (6 Aimee BENTON 56'), 3 Yvette MUSCAT, 4 Tal KARP, 8 Deanna NICESKI, 9 Lauren FARRUGIA (7 Ebru EFE 88'), 10 Aleksandra SINCLAIR, 14 Georgia KOUTROUVELIS, 15 Natalie EXON (23 Georgie OUDEMAN 90'), 17 Marlies OOSTDAM, 19 Belinda PACELLA (12 Chiara ROMANO 83')
Coach: Jeff HAWKINS

Substitutes not used: 1 Alice RYAN

Yellow cards: Nil
Red cards: Nil

Heidelberg United: 1 Katie NEVILLE, 2 Michelle VERZI (21 Tammy HENDRIKS 45'), 6 Rita MANKOWSKA, 7 Jamara MAZZA, 8 Melanie CAMILLERI, 9 Belinda PANNELLA, 11 Meghan ARCHER, 12 Julia NICOLACI, 14 Katia TAVOLARO, 16 Jolene MILLER, 17 Tyla Jay VLANJIC
Coach: John LIOUPAS

Substitutes not used: 3 Maria TSOLACAS, 13 Dijana JOSEVSKA, 19 Sarah GROENEWALD, 40 Lucy BALTA

Yellow card: 21 Tammy HENDRIKS 46'
Red cards: Nil

For more WPL news visit Emma Field's blog <http://fromthebackline.blogspot.com>

Football Victoria's Big Day Out at AAMI

By Roy Hay

It was just like old times at the new stadium as Inter took on Alexander in the women's grand final and Ajax played Allemania in the men's game. For the younger generation it was Box Hill against Heidelberg United and Green Gully Cavaliers versus Richmond.

Green Gully brought 14 bus loads of supporters to the game, having given tickets to all their juniors. Ian Dobson, the Bart Cummings of Victorian football, had brought Green Gully from third place on the ladder at the end of the home and away season to challenge for the biggest prize in the local game.

Dobson was seeking his seventh crown, having won four previously with Gully and two with Altona Magic. Richmond, the top team in the league, had to fight through the preliminary final to claim the chance to fight for the crown.

Green Gully 3 Richmond 0

In an open, exciting advertisement for the Victorian Premier League, Green Gully showed all the experience and control needed to take the title by three goals to nil.

John Bonacci told me that Ian Dobson told his charges before the game that if he needed to motivate any member of the squad for this game, then that player should put his hand up and be invited to watch from the stand.

He then issued his tactical instructions and left it at that.

Gully took control early with its midfield veterans Jeff Fleming and Andy Vargas providing the platform from which Graham Hockless and Jason Hayne could work their magic.

Richmond looked to create openings on the flanks through Davey van't Schip and Jesse Krncevic and it took a great saving tackle by Matthew Sanders to keep out the latter in the 11th minute.

In the 26th minute Nikola Roganovic had to throw himself at the ball to push it away from Daniel Visevic, but Gully rebounded

quickly through Fleming, Hayne and Hockless who set up Matthew Sanders for the opening goal.

Steve Burton had responded well after an early booking and seven minutes later he came down the left and crossed into the danger area.

Brent Fisher's intervention enabled Graham Hockless to pass the ball neatly into the net.

Richmond had two excellent chances to get on terms late in the first half, with the Gully keeper denying Visevic and then Krncevic headed just wide from a cross-shot by Michael Ferrante.

Gully dominated play in the second half but did not add to its score until the 81st minute when Tom Milardovic brought down Vargas in the corner of the penalty box.

He was booked for that incident and Steve Burton continued to add to his tally of goals from the penalty spot this season.

Milardovic then got himself needlessly booked again three minutes later and with that went any hope Richmond had of gaining something from the game.

Graham Hockless won the Jimmy Rooney

Medal for the player of the grand final and Dean Fak made a cameo farewell appearance in the last couple of minutes for Green Gully.

Referee Shaun Evans had an excellent match, letting the game flow and making interventions sensibly so that the match was not disrupted, and both teams are to be congratulated for making it such a competitive and entertaining game.

Box Hill Inter 2 Heidelberg Utd 1

These two rivals have met in the last five grand finals and Inter has won eight of the last nine, with Heidelberg gaining the other.

The experienced favourite, Inter, got off to the perfect start winning a corner on the right in the second minute. Marlies Oostdam's cross found its way across the box to Deanna Niceski who drove it back into the net past Katie Neville.

A few hundred watched the match in the spring sunshine.

As the teams tired in the second half the game opened up.

Belinda Pacella broke on the left after

76 minutes and sent a diagonal cross to unmarked substitute Aimee Benton who collected it and fired in Box Hill's second goal.

Three minutes later Heidelberg mounted an attack down its right and Melanie Camilleri blasted the ball into the top corner of Melissa Barbieri's goal giving the Matlidas' keeper no chance.

In the 89th minute, Camilleri had another shot from distance which went through Barbieri's hands, and her face took the brunt of the impact.

Box Hill had much more of the play but especially after its goal, Heidelberg made a real game of it though the better team won on the day.

Georgia Koutrouvelis the Box Hill midfielder won the medal as the best player in the grand final.

Once again the officiating was first class, with Kate Jacewicz maintaining the spirit in which both teams approached the encounter.



Port Melbourne Sharks take top honours in State League NW 2

In next week's GW:
Kiss My Grass Edition
State League & Provisional Leagues

Goal! Weekly
 Australia's Premier Football Newspaper



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